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# REPORT

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## ARCHIVES AND PUBLIC RECORDS OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK AND OF NEW YORK CITY.

BY

 HERBERT L. OSGOOD,

*Professor of History in Columbia University.*

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[Reprinted from the **First** Report of the Public Archives Commission of the  
**American** Historical Association, 1900.]

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## REPORT ON THE PUBLIC ARCHIVES OF NEW YORK.<sup>1</sup>

### PART I.—STATE ARCHIVES.

The archives of the State of New York at Albany are preserved in the State library and in the various departmental offices where they originated. The collection in the State library, which is the largest and, viewed from the standpoint of the historian, the most important body of manuscripts possessed by the State, has been formed by purchase, by gift, and by transfer from the office of the secretary of state of a considerable part of the manuscripts which that office once possessed. The process by which additions have been made to the collection in the State library can be traced in the various reports of that institution,<sup>2</sup> and especially in State Library Bulletin (History) No. 3, June, 1899. This bulletin contains an annotated list of the principal manuscripts in the collection, arranged in the order in

<sup>1</sup>In the preparation of so much of this report as relates to the manuscripts in the State library, the compiler has been greatly indebted to Prof. C. W. Spencer, of Colgate University, and Prof. W. H. Nichol, of the University of Colorado, formerly students in Columbia University. They catalogued the collection, and the larger part of the list which they prepared appears in this report. The paragraphs dealing with the collection of French manuscripts relating to D'Arcyville's voyages and the Revolution were contributed by Mr. Arnold J. F. Van Laer, archivist, New York State library. Mr. Van Laer also prepared the report on the Dutch archives in Kingston and at Albany, and rendered much valuable assistance in the compilation of all that relates to the collections in the State library. It is believed that this report on the Dutch records, together with the account of those within the present city of New York, contained in a later portion of the present report, includes the most important Dutch records of a public character now in the State. For the report on the records of Onondaga County, inserted as indicative of the volume and character of the archives to be found in the middle section of the State, the compiler is indebted to Dr. L. D. Seiseo, also a former student in Columbia University. Thanks also are due to the many officials through whose courtesy much of the information in this report was obtained.

For references to other accounts of the archives of New York, see the "List of printed indices to and descriptions of archives and other repositories of historical manuscript" in the First Report of the Historical Manuscripts Commission (Report of the American Historical Association, 1896, Vol. I, pp. 489-491, 502-505).

<sup>2</sup>References to these will be found in Report of American Historical Association, 1896.

which they were acquired. A comparison of its contents with the very comprehensive and satisfactory catalogue of records in the office of the secretary of state, submitted to the State senate in 1820 by J. V. N. Yates and printed in the senate journal of that year, will show to what extent the records in the library have been derived from the secretary's office. The transfer was chiefly made under chapter 120 of the laws of 1881. The Johnson Manuscripts, the Clinton Papers, the Tompkins Papers, and the remaining contents of the collection have come from other sources and at other times, some earlier and some later than 1881.

In State Library Bulletin (History) No. 3, page 228, will be found a partial bibliography of lists, catalogues, and reports which relate to the manuscripts in the office of the secretary of state and in the State library. In the preparation of the present report use has been made of most of these, Bulletin No. 3 having been found especially helpful. An effort has been made to supplement rather than to supersede these helps. None of them are exhaustive, or wholly satisfactory, even within the limited fields which they seek to cover, but the information they give has been availed of, so far as it goes. The purpose of the compiler of this report has been to give a review of the archives of the State as a whole, including those of recent date as well as those belonging to the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries. Of the records of the nineteenth century, in which the remarkable broadening of State activity and centralizing of its functions, as evidenced by the rapid increase in the number of administrative departments, is reflected, no description or catalogue has ever been prepared or even attempted. So great, indeed, is the bulk of these records that to catalogue them would be well nigh impossible, if not to a large extent useless. But a description of them can be given which shall indicate in general terms what their character and contents are. Such a description the compiler has tried to give, availing himself of the statements, oral and written, of departmental officials, and making such personal examination as was possible of the records themselves. Of the records in some of the older offices of the State government no attempt has ever been made to publish either a description or a catalogue. This is

true of the fiscal offices, of the office of engineer and surveyor, of the courts, and of the attorney-general. These, however, possess many records of great value, and an effort has been made to indicate what they are. The collections relating to the history of the province of New York and to the earlier history of the State, to which attention in printed lists and catalogues has hitherto been exclusively directed, will, it is believed, appear in this report in their proper place, not as the whole, but as a part of the whole. In other words, an effort has been made to indicate, from the standpoint of its archives, what the historical development of the Commonwealth as an entirety has been.

The digest of the law of New York relative to records, which forms the last section of this report, is believed to include all the important statutory provisions on the subject. The laws disclose the ordinary American system of leaving records in the custody of the officials in whose offices they have originated. The result has been that, except at the State capitol and possibly a few other centers, no special care has been devoted to the preservation of records, and they have never been the subject of systematic or skilled management. From the nature of the case, judicial records have received most attention from legislators and most care from custodians. Law and practice alike, however, in New York show the prevalent notion to be that clerks of cities, towns, and counties are the only natural record keepers for their localities, and that the routine service rendered by them in this direction is all that is desirable. No attempt has ever been made to supervise or control their work in this particular. As a consequence, it has too often been the case that the public official knew and cared little about the older records under his charge, and found no time to concern himself about any except those brought into requisition by the routine business of his office. The older records, therefore, have not only been allowed to fall into neglect and to remain practically inaccessible to inquirers, but even necessary precautions against loss or damage through fire or other accident, change of officials, change in the location of offices, lending of the records, and even positive theft have not always been taken.

DUTCH RECORDS IN THE NEW YORK STATE LIBRARY, OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE, ALBANY COUNTY CLERK'S OFFICE, RECORD ROOM OF THE COMMON COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF ALBANY, AND ULSTER COUNTY CLERK'S OFFICE, AT KINGSTON, N. Y.

The New York State library possesses two important collections of Dutch manuscripts relating to the early history of the colony. The first, embracing the period 1603-1678, consists of 16 volumes of transcripts of documents in the royal archives at the Hague and the archives of the city of Amsterdam, procured in 1841 by John Romeyn Brodhead as agent of the State. (See *New York State Library Bulletin (History)* No. 3, p. 225.) These papers were translated and edited by E. B. O'Callaghan as "Documents Relating to the Colonial History of the State of New York," Vols. 1, 2, Holland documents. Albany, 1856-1858.

The second collection, containing the official transactions of the government established by the Dutch West India Company for the years 1638-1664 and 1673-1674, with occasional papers for the intervening and subsequent periods, consists entirely of originals. Formerly bound in 48 volumes, they were, with the exception of two volumes and an index of Dutch patents, arranged and rebound in systematic order, under the supervision of E. B. O'Callaghan, about 1850, as part of the series of "New York Colonial Manuscripts." (See *History Bulletin* 3, pp. 215-217.) A list of these papers appeared under the title, "Calendar of Historical Manuscripts in the Office of the Secretary of State," Albany, N. Y., edited by E. B. O'Callaghan, 2 vols., Albany, 1865-66. This calendar contains: Vol. 1, Dutch manuscripts, vols. 1-21, 1630-1664; vol. 2, English manuscripts, vols. 22-101, 1664-1776. The contents of the first 21 volumes are as follows:

- Vols. 1-3, register of the provincial secretary, 1638-60.
- Vols. 4-10, Council minutes, 1638-65.
- Vols. 11-15, correspondence of the director-general, 1646-64.
- Vol. 16, placards, writs, and Fort Orange records, 1647-63.
- Vol. 17, Curaçao papers, 1640-65.
- Vols. 18-21, Delaware papers, 1646-82.

All of these volumes, except volumes 20-21 of Delaware papers, are in the Dutch language.

Of the other volumes of the New York Colonial Manuscripts, volumes 22, 24-32, 35-37, 39, 43-47, 49, and 69 contain a number of papers in Dutch, while volume 23, including the proceedings under Governor Anthony Colve, 1673-74, is almost entirely in Dutch. The State library has a translation of most of these records by Francis Adrian Van der Kemp, in 24 manuscript volumes, commonly referred to as the "Albany Records." In regard to this translation, which is in all respects unsatisfactory, it may be well to repeat here what O'Callaghan has said in the preface to his Calendar of Historical Manuscripts:

In the year 1815 the legislature authorized a translation of them to be made. It was begun in 1818 and completed in 1822. A careful examination of that work, page with page of the original, while preparing this calendar, has satisfied me that the translation is, in many places, not only incorrect and unreliable but incomplete, several parts and pages of the original having been left untranslated. Grave mistakes have been the consequence, much to the regret and annoyance of gentlemen engaged in the labor of historical research. Furthermore, the language of the translation has certainly not been drawn from "the well of English pure and undefiled," as all admit who have had occasion to consult the work. For all these reasons the documents purely historical ought to be translated anew.

This suggestion of preparing a new translation was partly carried out by O'Callaghan himself, the State library having two volumes of manuscript translations, from his hand, of volumes 1-4 of "New York Colonial Manuscripts," and also loose sheets of translations of volume 5, pages 1-14; volume 16, page 33; all the Dutch documents in volume 22; and nearly all those in volume 23, as far as they are not printed in "Documents Relating to the Colonial History of the State of New York," vol. 2, pp. 571-730. Of the first volume of translations an index was printed, under the title "Index to Volumes 1, 2, and 3 of Translations of Dutch Manuscripts in the Office of the Secretary of State," by E. B. O'Callaghan (Albany, 1870), while volume 2 of the translations, covering volume 4 of the originals, has a manuscript index. Plans for continuing and printing these translations, with copies of the originals, are at present under discussion.

The ordinances and regulations of the Dutch Government were selected and translated from the Dutch records by E. B. O'Callaghan, and printed separately as "Laws and Ordinances of New Netherland, 1638-1674" (Albany, 1868).

Many other documents printed from this series will be found in volumes 12-14 of "Documents Relative to the Colonial History of the State of New York," edited by B. Fernow (Albany, 1877-1883).

The volumes of Dutch patents above referred to still retain their original bindings, marked GG, 1636-1649, and HH, 1654-1664. The manuscript index is entitled: "Index: Account of Dutch Records; Alphabetical Index of the Two Dutch Books of Provincial Patents GG and HH." (See History Bulletin 3, p. 217.) For a list of the patents in GG and HH see "Calendar of Historical Manuscripts," edited by E. B. O'Callaghan (Albany, 1865), vol. 1, pp. 364-387. Manuscript translations of these volumes are found in the office of the secretary of state, as follows:

1. Translations of book of Dutch patents GG, v. 26, 1642-1649. 514 p. F.

This translation, authorized by act of May 7, 1839, was completed by Cornelius D. Westbrook, July 23, 1841. It comprises patents of July 12, 1630-Sept. 20, 1651, in Volume GG, and also translations of the deed of Maryn Andriessen to Jan Jansen Damen, Sept. 20, 1642 (see N. Y. Col. MSS., vol. 2, p. 33), and of the commissions to Martin Criegier and Cornelis van Ruyven, Sept. 22 and 23, 1659 (see N. Y. Col. MSS., vol. 18, p. 68). A careful examination of part of this volume, page for page with the original, especially in regard to the correct description of boundaries of lands, has shown that the translation may be considered on the whole as satisfactory and reliable.

2. Dutch patents and transports; translations, 1652-74. 86 p. F.

This is a carefully prepared translation by James Van Ingen of part 1 of Volume HH, also called II, and covering patents of Sept. 5, 1652-Oct. 15, 1653. It was received from the translator by the hands of his son, Sept. 8, 1826.

3. Translations from the Dutch, 1654-1655. 171 p. F.

This is a translation by James Van Ingen of part 2 of Volume HH, covering patents of Feb. 26, 1655-Apr. 5, 1664. It was completed Oct. 18, 1822. The translation, like the preceding one, may be regarded as correct and satisfactory.

4. Index of Dutch patent deeds, 1630-1661. 49 p. F.

This is an index of names for the above volumes of translations, and, like most old indexes, not implicitly to be relied upon.

Among the Dutch records in the New York State library there remains to be mentioned a volume entitled "Albany: R. P. Dutch Church Records, 1685-1700." 92 p., F., being the account book of deacons Jan Vinnagen [Vinhagen] and Albert Ryckman, similar in character to the deacons book of 1665-66 printed in Joel Munsell's "Collections on the History of Albany" (Albany, 1865), vol. 1, pp. 4-25. It



contains among other things the names of persons who contributed to the salaries of ministers Gideon Schaets and Godefridus Dellius.

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE.

With the exception of a few Dutch land papers indicated in "Calendar of New York Colonial Manuscripts, Indorsed Land Papers; in the Office of the Secretary of the State of New York, 1643-1803" (Albany, 1864), no Dutch records are kept in this office. For the translations of Dutch patents GG and HH, 1620-64, see the account of these volumes in the report on Dutch manuscripts in the New York State library.

ALBANY COUNTY CLERK'S OFFICE AND RECORD ROOM OF THE COMMON COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF ALBANY.

The volumes of Dutch records in these two offices, illustrating the early history of Albany and Schenectady counties, are 19 in number. They comprise:

- (a) The proceedings of the courts of Fort Orange and Albany, 1652-86. 8 vols.
- (b) Records of all formal transactions acknowledged before the clerk of the court or the secretary of the village of Beverwyck, such as deeds, bonds, mortgages, leases, wills, inventories, etc. 8 vols.
- (c) Account books of the city of Albany, 1702-65. 3 vols.

Of the court proceedings, No. 6 on the detailed list given below is referred to in "Documentary History of the State of New York" (Albany, 1849), vol. 1, p. 393, as one of the volumes in the county clerk's office. Munsell, in his "Annals of Albany," vol. 2, p. 88, mentions it, together with Nos. 3 and 5, as being kept in the office of the clerk of the common council. At present all three of the volumes are in the county clerk's office, while Nos. 7-8, containing minutes of the mayor's court, 1686-1702, are in the record room of the common council. Of the account books, Nos. 17-19 on the list, volume 1 is in the county clerk's office, while volumes 2-3 are in the record room of the common council. This confusion was caused in the first place by the fire in the old city hall, in February, 1880, when all the records became mixed; but since then single volumes have been transferred back and forth from one office to the other until no definite

location can be assigned to them. For these reasons it seems best to treat here the Dutch records in both offices as one set.

Manuscript calendars, by B. Fernow, of the majority of these records are in the county clerk's office, while in some volumes are found marginal notes in pencil, probably by Prof. Jonathan Pearson, of Union College, stating the nature of the document, the date, and the names of the contracting parties. An index of names, including the Ulster County records, at Kingston, N. Y., authorized by ch. 429, Laws of 1893, as amended by ch. 268, Laws of 1896, and by ch. 471, Laws of 1899, is nearly completed and will soon be published. No plans for printing either full translations of the records or a synopsis of them, as has now and then been erroneously stated by the press, are at present entertained.

The following is a list of the Dutch records in both offices, the titles being given as lettered on the back. "Co. rec." indicates county records in the Albany County clerk's office; "City rec." indicates city records in record room of the common council, in the tower of the city hall at Albany:

1. Court minutes, 1652, 1656. 321 p. F. Co. rec.

Contains minutes of Apr. 15, 1652-Dec. 12, 1656. Calendared by B. Fernow.

Fort Orange records of Oct. 4, 1656-Dec. 11, 1657, are in N. Y. Col. MSS., vol. 16, part 2, pp. 1-124.

2. Court minutes, 2, 1658-1660: Mortgage No. 1, 1652, 1660. 447 p. F. Co. rec.

Title on front cover reads: "Fort Orange proceedings, deeds, Indian treaties, bills of sale, etc., bonds, etc., powers of attorney, Jan., 1652-Nov., 1660."

This volume contains 211 pages of minutes of the court of Fort Orange, Jan. 8, 1658-Dec. 2, 1659, calendared in O'Callaghan's Calendar of Historical Manuscripts, vol. 1, pp. 317-22. Of the rest of the volume, containing mortgages, etc., a MS. calendar is in the county clerk's office.

Fort Orange records of Jan. 13-Dec. 30, 1660, are in N. Y. Col. MSS., vol. 16, part 3, pp. 133-232.

3. Court minutes, 1668, 1672. 335 p. F. Co. rec.

Title on fly leaf reads: "Prothocolle van Albany, Colonie Rensselaersw: ende Schaenhechede, begonnen den 3/13 September, anno 1668." Contains minutes of Sept. 3/13, 1668-Feb. 15, 1672. Calendared by B. Fernow.

4. [Court minutes, 1675-1684.] 210 p. F. Co. rec.

Has no title on the back nor on the fly leaf.

Contains minutes of Aug. 24, 1675-Mar. 10, 1683/4. Calendared by B. Fernow.

5. Proceedings of the commissioners of magistrates, 1676, 1680. 504 p. F. Co. rec.

Contains proceedings of the magistrates of Albany of Jan. 4, 1676-May 7, 1680. Calendared by B. Fernow.

6. Proceedings; Justices of the peace, 1680-1685. 337 p. F. Co. rec.

Contains minutes of June 3, 1680-Dec. 1, 1685. Calendared by B. Fernow.

In the record room of the common council is also found a volume of 131+165 pages, entitled "Minutes, 1676-1685, vol. 2," containing a synopsis of part of No. 5, *supra*, and of the whole of No. 6. Munsell, in his *Annals of Albany*, vol. 2, p. 88, speaks of this volume in the following terms: "The common council ordered them [Nos. 3, 5, and 6 of this list] to be translated several years ago, but the person employed for that purpose has merely given a synopsis of the last two volumes, in such a way that they are of no use to anybody." The usefulness depends largely upon the object in view. To all appearances the synopsis is quite full and satisfactory.

Five pages of minutes of a court of sessions, Mar. 3-June 2, 1685, are found in Deeds, vol. 4, for which see below.

7. Minutes, 1686-1694. Vol. 3. 106+27 p. (reverse side). F. City rec.

This is a volume of engrossed minutes, printed entire in Munsell's *Annals of Albany*, vol. 2, pp. 88-143. The larger part of the minutes are in English.

8. Minutes, 1686-1702. Vol. 4. 476 p. F. City rec.

These are the rough drafts of the proceedings of the common council and the court of mayor and aldermen. A number of minutes marked "niet te registreren" (not to be entered) are not in the engrossed minutes of the preceding number. Twelve loose sheets, laid in the volume, contain a synopsis of all the Dutch minutes, 33 in number, and of one minute not found in this volume, but in No. 7.

9. Mortgage book, 1753-65. 113 + 202 p. F. Co. rec.

Also called "Mortgage book, B." The first 113 pages are in Dutch and contain the "Minutes of ye court of Mayor, Aldermen, commonalty of ye City of Albany and ye Military officers of ye same; 24 day of June, 1680-4 March, 1690." Here are found the papers relating to the burning of Schenectady, printed in *Documentary History of the State of New York*, vol. 1, pp. 302-306.

The second part of the volume, which is in English, contains mortgages of Albany and Schenectady for Nov. 28, 1753-June 18, 1765. For earlier mortgages see "Court minutes, 2, 1658-1660," No. 2 in the present list.

10. Notarial papers, 1660, 1676. Vol. 1. 616 p. F. Co. rec.

Contains contracts, leases, inventories, bonds, indentures of apprenticeship, powers of attorney, etc., acknowledged before Direk Van Schelluyne and Adriaen Van Ylpendam, notaries public, Aug. 17, 1660-Jan. 6, 1676-7. Calendared by B. Fernow.

11. Notarial papers, 1677, 1695. Vol. 2. 577 p. F. Co. rec.

Same character as No. 10. Transactions of Jan. 6, 1676-7-Apr. 7, 1695. Calendared by B. Fernow.

12. Wills, No. 1, 1691, 1835. 366 + 145 p. F. Co. rec.

Contains wills, 1, Oct. 6, 1691-Nov. 18, 1772, 366 pp.; wills, 2, June 8, 1773-Jan. 12, 1835, 145 pp. Calendared by B. Fernow.

13. Deed book, No. 1, A, 1656, 1678. 210 p. F. Co. rec.  
Contains deeds of Oct. 16, 1656-June 20, 1678. Calendared by B. Fernow.
14. Deeds, No. 2, B, 1654, 1680. 869 p. F. Co. rec.  
Contains deeds of Aug. 19, 1654-July, 1679. Calendared by B. Fernow.  
Nos. 13 and 14 have been translated and edited by Prof. Jonathan Pearson, under the title "Early Records of the City and County of Albany and Colony of Rensselaerswyck, 1656-1675" (Albany, 1869); reprinted with a "Key to the names of persons," "Contributions for the genealogies of the first settlers of Albany," and "Diagram of the home lots of the village of Beverwyck," in Munsell's Collections on the history of Albany, vol. 3, pp. 1-224, and vol. 4, pp. 84-510.
15. Deed book, 3, 1678, 1687. 353 p. F. Co. rec.  
Contains deeds of July 1, 1678-Dec. 31, 1687. A few of the instruments are in English. Calendared by B. Fernow.
16. Deeds, 4, D, 1688, 1708. 342 + 5 p. F. Co. rec.  
Contains deeds of Jan. 1, 1688/9-May 1, 1708, part y in Dutch. These have been calendared by B. Fernow. In the same volume are also five pages of minutes of a court of session, March 3-June 2, 1685. Later volumes of deeds are entirely in English.
17. City treasurer, 1702. 87 folios, F. Co. rec.  
Title on fly leaf reads: "Schult Boeck belangende aen de Stad van Albany, etc. Begonnen desen 25 Maert 1702, gehouden door Anthony Brat, Tresaurier."  
Contains accounts of the city of Albany of Mar. 25, 1702-Oct. 14, 1721.
18. Account book. 1721-1743. Vol. 2. 132 folios, F. City rec.  
Bound in vellum, no title on back or on fly leaf. Contains accounts of Jan. 1, 1720/21-Jan. 1742/3.
19. Account book. 1740-1811. Vol. 3. 283 p. F. City rec.  
Title on fly leaf reads: "Schuld boeck aan de Staet (sic) Albany."  
Contains accounts of Oct. 14, 1740-Nov., 1765, in Dutch, 91 folios or 188 pp; accounts of 1786-Aug. 9, 1811, in English, pp. 189-283.

An examination of the loose papers in file cases, kept in the record room of the common council, showed further one document in Dutch, of July 26, 1683. This is a copy of the purchase of Saratoga from the Indians, in behalf of Cornelis van Dyck, Jan Jansen Bleecker, Peter Phil: Schuyler, and Joh<sup>s</sup>. Wendel.

ULSTER COUNTY CLERK'S OFFICE, KINGSTON.

The Dutch records of Ulster County consist of 6 volumes of court proceedings, 1661-84; 5 volumes of secretary's papers, containing deeds, mortgages, etc., 1664-79, and a number of deacons' account books and church records of 1676-1766. The latter, showing the names of church members, dates of arrival and death of pastors, the distribution of the poor fund, and various other matters indicating local customs and observances, are of the greatest interest for the study of the origin and growth of the churches in and around

Kingston. After having been missing for many years from the clerk's office, these Dutch records were finally returned and are kept at present, with some English records of more recent date, under lock and key in a flat, square wooden box. While thus in a measure secure against theft, the dilapidated condition in which these unique and priceless originals are allowed to remain is a matter of no little astonishment, and contrasts curiously with the care bestowed upon the preservation of their translations. Some of them, still in the form of separate quires, loosely stitched together, are entirely without cover; others, once substantially bound, have only the leather back and the fly leaves left to them for protection, the covers having in every instance been torn off.

In regard to the preparation of the translations above referred to, the following resolution, offered by Mr. Deyo, was adopted by the board of supervisors of Ulster County at their meeting of December 13, 1895:

"That the ancient records of this county, recently returned to the county clerk's office, be translated from the Dutch into English, by a competent translator to be selected by the county judge, and that the same be properly bound under the direction of the county clerk, the entire cost not to exceed the sum of five hundred dollars, the bill therefor to be audited by the chairman of this board."

In accordance with this resolution, Judge A. T. Clearwater of Kingston selected in 1896 Mr. Diederik Versteeg, a native of Holland and official translator of the Holland Society of New York, to make a full translation of the records—a task occupying most of the translator's time for three consecutive years.

The translations, substantially bound in three large folio volumes, are entitled: "Deeds; translations, Dutch records, Ulster County," and contain:

Vol. 1 (645 pp.). Bond of May 31, 1658, and records of July 12, 1661—Feb. 16, 1672/3.

Vol. 2 (640 pp.). Records of Feb. 21, 1672/3—Oct. 23, 1682.

Vol. 3 (390 pp.). Records of Nov., 1682—Oct. 22, 1766.

At the time this report was prepared the translations were temporarily removed to Albany for the purpose of being indexed in accordance with chapter 471 of the Laws of 1899, and consequently could not be compared with the originals at Kingston. A careful reading of part of the work, however, has left the impression that the translation, although

not faultless, is a creditable one, and may, in general, be accepted as reliable. A few obvious blunders in taking the common present-day acceptation of a word instead of the older meaning intended in the records, show that the work has not been carefully revised, but these errors are as a rule unimportant and can easily be corrected in case the translations should be printed.

The following is a list of all the Dutch records, as found in the box referred to:

1. Court records, 1, 1661-64. 336 pp. F.  
Contains copy of a bond by the inhabitants of Wiltwyck to demolish separate dwellings and surround the village with a stockade, May 31, 1658, and court minutes of July 12, 1661-May 6, 1664.
2. Court records, 2, 1664-67. 360 pp. F.  
Minutes of June 29, 1664-Nov. 5, 15, 1667.
3. Court records, 3, 1667-73. 302 pp. F.  
Minutes of Nov. 12, 22, 1667-Aug. 26, 1673. At the end are found an indenture of service acknowledged before the secretary, 1672, and summons to appear before the next court of sessions, the latter in English.
4. Court records, 4, 1673-75; also marked "Liber C." 100 pp. F.  
Minutes of Nov. 9, 1673-Nov. 11, 1675.
5. Court records, 5, 1676-84. 243 pp. F.  
Minutes of Dec. 22, 1676-Oct. 15, 1681. Contains one instrument acknowledged before Thos. Garton, justice of the peace, of Dec. 19, 1685.  
In this volume is found also a list of the "Protocol" or court records, stating which pages were missing on Feb. 19, 1700. 22 books are enumerated.
6. Court records, 6, 1681-84. 354 pp. F.  
Contains (a) minutes of Jan. 8, 1680-March 13, 1683, 172 pp.; (b) minutes of March 15, 1680-Sept. 5, 1683, pp. 173-354.
7. Secretary's papers, Liber A, 1664-65. 140 pp. F.  
Contains depositions, deeds, mortgages, etc., April 7, 1664-Dec. 31, 1665.
8. Secretary's papers, Liber B, 1661-81. 442 pp. F.  
Contains: (a) register of the secretary, Jan. 5, 1666-July 23, 1667, 190 pp.  
(b) Contract of sale of horses, Gouwert Poulussen to Cornelis Barentsen Slecht, 1670; and two memoranda of fees due March 16, 1670, and Nov. 9, 1673, pp. 191-192. Pp. 193-220 are blank.  
(c) Register of the secretary, Jan. 11-Nov. 22, 1675, pp. 221-35. Pp. 236-51 are blank.  
(d) Register of the secretary, March 10, 1675-Nov. 9, 1676, pp. 255-76. Pp. 277-92 are blank.  
(e) Register of the secretary, Jan. 5, 1678-9-Feb. 29, 1680, pp. 293-95. P. 296 is blank.  
(f) Transport for three negro slaves, John Colloway to Gabriel Minviele, 1680 (in English). P. 297. Pp. 298-316 are blank.  
(g) Register of the secretary, March 3, 1679-Feb. 27, 1679-80, pp. 317-81. P. 382 is blank.  
(h) Indenture, Dec. 23, 1678 (in English). P. 383. Pp. 384-400 are blank.  
(i) Register of the secretary, March 3, 1679-80-Jan. 7, 1680, pp. 401-42.

9. Secretary's papers, Liber C, 1669-72. Pp. 13-166. F. Pp. 1-12 are blank.  
 Contains register of Secretary La Montagne, Dec. 27, 1669-Oct. 7, 1672.
10. Secretary's papers, Liber D, 1672-73.  
 Contains deeds, etc., Nov. 4, 1672-April 20, 1673, marked in margin of first page "E."
11. Secretary's papers, Liber E, 1676-79. 216 pp. F.  
 Contains (a) register of Secretary La Montagne, March 29, 1676-March 5, 1678.9, pp. 3-133.  
 (b) Minutes of the court of sessions, April 26, 1676-Dec. 14, 1680 (reverse side), pp. 134-216.
12. Reecq: van het arme gelt tot Kingstowne. 7 p. F.  
 Account of the poor fund of the church at Kingston, Oct. 12, 1676-Nov. 6, 1681, and June 26, 1772-May 12, 1774.
13. Groot Boeck, Nombor A, gehouden door Wilhelmus d'Meyer, diaken tot Kingstowne, beginnende 13 Nov., 1681, en Eyndigende 1 Jan., 1683. 36 folios. F.  
 Deacon's book, containing accounts of Nov. 13, 1681-Jan. 1, 1683, and Jan. 7, 1683-Jan. 1, 1684.
14. Rekenyng gehouden door Benjamijn Provoost van de inkomst en nytgift van het Arme gelt tot Kingstoom, 1685. 18 pp. F.
15. Kingstoun, 1686: Den onfank van't Arme gelt. Jan. 3, 1686-Jan. 8, 1686/7. 6 folios. F.
16. Reecq: van ontfangst en nytgift van Abraham Lamaitre en Cornelis gerritse, Dyakens, Beginnende Den 1<sup>ste</sup> Majj 1692 tot Den 12 Novemb<sup>r</sup>, 1693. 6 pp. F.
17. Reekening van Abraham Lamaitre en Arent teunisse, Dijakens tot Kingstowne, 3 Jan., 1696/7-13 June, 1698. 9 pp. F.
18. Journaal, No. C, Begonnen Int Jaar 1703/4 den 4 January gehouden door Coenraadt Elvendorp en Hans Kierstede, Diakens, 2 Jan., 1703/4-11 Aug., 1719. 39 pp. F.  
 Has one page in English, containing a list of bills received and to whom given out, July 4-Nov. 1, 1788.
19. Generale Kerken ordinanties voor de gemeenten toegedaen d'onveranderte Augspurgse [confessie] naar voorgaande collatie met de Generale Kercken ordinantie door 't Hoogh Eerw: Lutherse Consistorium t' Amsterdam ons gecommuniceert en van 't ook Hoogh Eerw: Consistorium—ons gerecommandeert op onze Christelyke Gemeenten in de Province New York en New Jersey toepasselyk gemaakt; Loonenburgh in d' county of Albany anno 1742, May 2<sup>de</sup>. 48 pp. F.  
 Signed: "Loonenburg 1746. Peter Nicolas Sommer," and for the consistory of Loonenburg: "Johannes Christophorus Hartwig."
20. Plan for building a church at Marbletown, Dec. 1, 1743. 4 pp. F.
21. Plan for building a church at New Paltz, Aug. 29, 1766. 9 pp. F.  
 Contains also the conditions under which the petition for building the church is granted and a description of the lot, both in English.

The following is a brief list of the early English records kept with the Dutch papers in the box:

1. Indictments of the grand jury, 1684.
2. Town court minutes, 1688/9-98.
3. Town court minutes, 1706-12.
4. Town court minutes, 1724-46.
5. Town court minutes, 1746-47.
6. Minutes of the court of sessions and of the court of common pleas at Kingston, Sept., 1693-Dec. 3, 1698.  
This volume has one entry in Dutch, for a translation of which see Translations, vol. 3, p. 378.
7. Minutes of the court of sessions, 1737-50.
8. Minutes of the court of common pleas, 1759.
9. Minutes of the board of supervision, 1712-31.
10. Minutes of the board of supervision, 1793-1806.
11. Minutes of the commissioners for laying out the King's Highways or Rhodes for the County of Ulster at Kingston, Sept. 8, 1722-April 11, 1769.  
One survey of Aug. 5, 1749, is in Dutch; for a translation see Translations, vol. 3, p. 379.
12. Assessment roll, 1716/7.
13. Assessment roll, 1728/9.
14. Account book, ledger, 1708-70.
15. Account book, ledger, of Marbletown, 1719-95.

#### MANUSCRIPTS IN THE STATE LIBRARY RELATING TO EVENTS SINCE THE ENGLISH CONQUEST IN 1664.

The original charter of the province of New York, granted by Charles II to the Duke of York, 1664. Parchment, bound.

Bulletin, p. 210.

The Duke's Laws, 1664.

This is a copy certified by the secretary of the province, M. Wren, as agreeing with the original. Bulletin, p. 221.

Calendar of court of assizes, 1665-72.

Calendar of general entries, 1671-74.

Calendar of warrants, orders, passes, etc., 1674-79.

Calendar of general entries, 1678-80.

Calendar of orders, warrants, etc., 1680-82.

Calendar of entries, 1682-83.

Calendar of licenses, warrants, 1686-1702.

Calendar of pass book, 1680-91.

MSS. calendars by Berthold Fernow.

*General entries and council minutes.*—These have been transferred from the office of the secretary of state. There, as appears in Yates's Report, page 21, they formed one



series, volumes 1-33. It was natural that originally they should have been so arranged, for the general entries contain many of the documents which gave rise to proceedings recorded in the minutes of the executive council of the province. Since Yates's report was prepared the series has been divided, general entries and council minutes and records of the court of assize being each put by itself. General entries, however, still bear the numbers they had in the original series (vols. 1, 4, 32, 33), and pertain to events between 1664 and 1683. They contain letters of and to the governors, commissions, orders, passes, permits, etc. Volume 1 has been printed in *State Library Bulletin (History) No. 2*. The council minutes are the journal of the council of the province in both its executive and legislative capacity. They fill 28 volumes, being volumes 3 (1668-78) and 5-31 (1683-1776) of the original series. They will be found described in *Bulletin (History) No. 3*, page 218. The executive minutes in this series have not yet been printed, save as they appear in volumes 11, 12, and 13 of the *New York Colonial Documents*. Besides forming a part of the earlier volumes, they entirely fill volumes 19, 21, 23, 25, 26, 29, and 31 of the series. Manuscript indexes to a part of this series exist in 4 volumes, also an index at the back of each volume and a calendar of all the volumes, by B. Fernow, which is now in press.

Volume 2 of the above series is entitled "Court of Assize," 1665-1672, and contains letters, orders, divorces, etc., proceeding from that court. Both an index and a calendar of this exist in manuscript. (*Bulletin*, p. 217.)

Many original drafts of council minutes and volumes of rough copies of the same have also been preserved. These are apparently the 62 such books referred to by Yates as in existence in his time, and which, as they had been engrossed in council books, he thought it not worth while to bind. That O'Callaghan made use of these rough minutes in editing the minutes of the legislative council is indicated by the fact that he supplied the entries for August 31 and September 5-13, 1728, which are not in the bound volumes of engrossed copies of the series. The minutes of the eastern

boundary committee for the period, July 14–November 16, 1753, and the minutes of the executive council for December 4, 1775–February 14, 1776, are lacking in the engrossed volumes, and appear only in the rough copies.

In historic order the next group of manuscripts is that designated by Yates as "Miscellaneous records," in 32 numbered volumes. These include an important part of the records which originally belonged in the office of the secretary of the province and the later secretary of state. They will be found subdivided and classified in Bulletin (History) No. 3, pp. 218–220. They consist of orders, licenses, warrants, treasury warrants, warrants of survey, colonial precedents, certificates of election, certificates of incorporation, statements of territorial claims affecting New Hampshire, Massachusetts, Connecticut, and New Jersey, a report of commissioners to determine Vermont claims, and finally the Military Balloting Book of 1790 and 1794. These documents range between the dates 1665 and 1808.

To be somewhat more specific concerning the contents of some of these: The Pass Book, 1680–1694 (No. 4 in the original series), contains records of permits of vessels to enter and clear from the port of New York. On page 68 of the Pass Book is a memorandum of books and writings "taken out of this office by Edward Randolph esq., Sec'y. of the Dominion of New England and carried to Boston." Yates, on the strength of this, wrote to Boston, but could find no trace of the missing documents. Of the two volumes entitled "Licenses, Warrants, etc." (Nos. 5 and 6), the former (1686–1702) contains licenses to purchase lands from the Indians, warrants of survey, and orders to prepare drafts of patents. Pages 50–109 of this volume contain a variety of papers relating to the administration of Governor Dongan. Volume 2 (1702–1712) contains licenses, warrants, and orders (pp. 1–152), and, throughout the rest of the book, orders upon the collector and receiver general (1703–1705), all signed by Cornbury, and numbered from 269 to 510. (See the volume mentioned below, entitled "Payments from the Public Chest.") The five volumes of Treasury Warrants (Nos. 7–12) are authoritatively designated as "Warrants issued for payment of moneys out of the revenue of the

Province of New York or otherwise, by order of his excellency the governor in council." The warrants are addressed to the collector and receiver general, and those for the payment of salaries are not numbered.

The volume entitled "Colonial Precedents" (No. 15) contains specimens of a great variety of official documents used during the first half of the eighteenth century, e. g., forms used in prerogative court and chancery, powers of attorney, commissions to administer oaths, commissions to military officers, petitions for warrants of survey, warrants for impressment of seamen, indentures, pardons, election returns, etc.

Volume 16, entitled "Warrants of Survey," seems to have been used for much the same purpose as its predecessor, and contains a larger amount of miscellaneous material, such as depositions by persons in England, orders to pay salaries out of quitrents, etc., than it does of land papers.

Volumes 25-27 of the series, containing certificates of election from 1779 to 1814, and volume 28, containing certificates of incorporation, are still in the office of the secretary of state. Little, if any, of the material in this series has been printed save the Military Balloting Book and the Report of the Commissioners on the New Jersey Boundary, 1808.<sup>1</sup>

A folio volume entitled "Payments from the Public Chest, 1702-1705," contains abstracts of warrants, the numbers on the warrants corresponding with those in volume 6 of Licenses and Warrants and volumes 7 and 8 of Treasury Warrants.

Accounts of the treasurer of the Province of New York, 1737-1750.

This is a large folio and is full of matter of great importance to the student of the fiscal history of the province. Some of the entries in it go back to 1726.

Treasury bonds, Book A. Bonds for payment of duties on liquors, Feb. 5, 1768-Apr. 24, 1772.

Tonnage book, No. 22, Jan. 2, 1762-Aug. 29, 1767. Tonnage book, 1768.

Wine entered for exportation, Book A, June 4, 1768-Oct. 13, 1774.

Letter book, receiver-general's office, 1766. Thin folio.

Account of George Joseph Moore with Hon. George Clarke, for the secretary's fees, 1744-1745.

<sup>1</sup> The date of the report of the commissioners at Greenwich is 1743, not 1748, as stated in the Bulletin.

Commissions, 1680-1770. 5 vols.

Volume 3 missing. These are a part of a long series of such documents, the larger number of which still remain in the office of the secretary of state. Reference to them will be found under that head; also in *Bulletin*, p. 218.

Dongan's laws. 78 pp. Folio.

Contains the acts passed by the first general assembly of the province, 1683-1684. These are now printed in the *Colonial Laws of New York*, prepared under the care of the commissioners of statutory revision. *Bulletin*, p. 221.

Bills which failed to become laws, 1685-1770. 3 vols.

*Bulletin*, p. 221.

New York assembly journals, 1699, 1700, 1740, 1766-67. 1 folio vol.

*Bulletin*, p. 212.

London documents. 47 vols.

Paris documents. 17 vols.

All printed in "Documents relating to the Colonial History of New York," vols. 7-10.

Marriage bonds, 1672-1784. 41 vols.

Indexes are now printed. *Bulletin*, p. 221.

Extracts from the correspondence of the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel in Foreign Parts, with the missionaries T. Poyer, S. Seabury, and others, relating to Long Island. 1704-1779.

Copy of roll of officers and men of the late Lord Lovelace's company upon duty at Albany, Feb. 25, 1709/10. Thin folio.

Indentures of Palatine children, 1710-1711. Thin folio.

*Bulletin*, p. 221. Names from these are printed in *Doc. Hist. of New York*, Vol. III.

We now come to certain land papers and papers concerning trade, revenue, and Indian relations, most of which are not mentioned in the *Bulletin* or in other printed catalogues of this collection.

From preceding and subsequent references in this report it will be found that there are in this collection returns of survey for 1683-1686 and warrants of survey for 1692-1714, 1721-1732, 1765-1769, 1769-1776, 1785-1786.

New York land patents. Original drafts.

Vol. 1, 1680-1687. Index. 66 patents.

Vol. 2, 1687-1722. Index. 95 patents.

Vol. 3, 1720-1727. Index. 63 patents.

Vol. 4, 1721-1739. Index. 52 patents.

Vol. 5, 1727-1736. Index. 53 patents.

Vol. 6, 1740-1751. Index. 47 patents.

*Bulletin*, p. 214.

## Land patents. Original drafts.

- Vol. 1, 1752-1761. Index. 41 patents.  
 Vol. 2, 1762-1768. Index. 46 patents.  
 Vol. 3, 1769-1770. 70 patents.  
 Vol. 4, 1771-1772. 50 patents.  
 Vol. 5, 1772-1775. 43 patents.

One folio volume, containing descriptions of land patents, arranged by counties, generally in chronological order, though this is not strictly followed, each county having its own set of numbers, beginning with No. 1. The abstract gives "County's name and number of the grant; The governor's name that granted and the date of the grant; The granters' names; The quitrent reserved, in proclamation money, in wheat, in skins, in lambs, etc.; The description of the lands or quantity granted; Annual amounts of the quitrent in proclamation money."

New York County, 1676-1752, pp. 1-6.

Ulster County, 1670-May 2, 1775, pp. 11-29, 183 patents.

Dutchess County, Oct. 17, 1685-Nov. 24, 1772, pp. 31-34, 19 patents.

Orange County, Dec. 19, 1685-Mar. 14, 1775, pp. 37-42, 35 patents.

Westchester County, Oct. 16, 1668-Sept. 25, 1771, pp. 45-52, 41 patents.

Kings County, Dec. 3, 1667-Oct. 13, 1740, pp. 55-57, 22 patents.

Queens County, Sept. 29, 1677-July 10, 1767, pp. 61-66, 41 patents.

Suffolk County, Oct. 5, 1665-Apr. 1, 1734, pp. 69-73, 33 patents.

Richmond County, May 15, 1672-Aug. 11, 1749, pp. 77-96, 169 patents.

Albany County, July 26, 1677-Oct., 1765, pp. 97-148, 446 patents.

Accounts of grants, etc., in the counties of Cumberland, Charlotte, Albany, Tryon, and Gloucester, from 1766 to 1775.

Cumberland, pp. 1-23.

Charlotte, pp. 29-43.

Albany, pp. 43-68, and p. 75.

Tryon, pp. 23-29.

Gloucester, pp. 68-72.

Abstracts of land grants. 10 folio volumes. Each volume contains: Governor's name and date; Patentees; Rents reserved and other services; Book and folio; Denomination and description of the land; Observations.

Westchester County, April 20, 1666-Sept. 25, 1771.

Orange and Dutchess counties, 1685-1775.

Tryon County, Sept. 10, 1772-June 22, 1775.

Charlotte County, May 7, 1772-June 25, 1775.

Cumberland County, July 14, 1766-Oct. 13, 1772.

Gloucester County, March 29, 1770-June 20, 1775.

This volume contains a list entitled "Abstract of patents granted by the late colony of New York with the amount of quit rents due 29 Sept., 1776."

## Abstracts of land grants, etc.—Continued.

Richmond County, Oct. 4, 1664—Aug. 22, 1716.

Dates in this volume are much mixed. The volume closes with the entry "The foregoing contain all that are entered in the Secretary's office book subject Quits. Examined 17 Oct., 1786. By me. Robert Harpur, D-Sec'y." First two pages much torn.

Queens County, Dec. 18, 1665—July 10, 1767.

This volume contains (separately) an "Account of money due for clerk's fees as rendered by James Fairlie, clerk of the supreme court in the city of New York," etc. Undated.

Kings County, Nov., 1667—Oct. 13, 1740.

Suffolk County, 1665—1735.

Contains record of a grant in Cornwall County, on the east side of the Kennebec, by Gov. Dongan, Dec. 6, 1686.

New York County, Feb. 26, 1665—May 27, 1755.

First two pages much torn. Closes with the following entry: "The foregoing docket from no. 1 in p. 87 to no. 66 in this page correspond with the Secretary's Office book and are all that are therein contained. Compared therewith by me, 16 Oct., 1686. Robert Harpur. D-Sec'y."

Albany County, Sept. 25, 1665—Aug. 22, 1775.

Much wrinkled and edges torn.

## Territorial rights, 1750.

Bulletin, p. 220. Inside title, "Collection of evidence in vindication of the territorial rights and jurisdiction of the State of New York against the claims of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and New Hampshire and the people of the grants who are commonly called Vermonters," 1750—1770.

Consists mostly of extracts from the council minutes, from the correspondence of governors, minutes of councils with the Indians, etc., 1664 et seq. Printed entire in Colls. of N. Y. Hist. Soc., 1869, pp. 281-528.

## Various quitrent accounts, 1722—1806, viz:

Journal receipt of His Majesty's quitrents. 1722—1738—39. Bound in vellum, folio. Marked 1722—1734, but really goes down to 1738—39.

Made out by counties:

New York, pp. 1-4.

Albany, pp. 16-21.

Westchester, pp. 35-38.

Ulster, pp. 44-53.

Kings, pp. 73-76.

Orange, pp. 89-91.

Queens, pp. 109-112.

Dutchess, pp. 128-129.

Suffolk, pp. 145-148.

Richmond, pp. 157-167.

From page 175 on is "The general account of the King's Quit rents" stated by Archibald Kennedy, collector and receiver general, for each of the above years.

Paper volume entitled "B. Day book of receipts of His Majesty's quit rents in the Province of New York, beginning the 12th of March 1738 and ending 12 March 1745/6," 187 pp. There is then a gap, the next page being 208, dated June 26, 1746, running on to p. 233, Sept. 9, 1747.

"Quitt rent ledger no. 1. Office of the Receiver general of the Province of New York, commencing 12 Mar. 1728/9."

Large folio bound in vellum.

Accounts of quitrents on patents numbering 1 to 649, covering dates Mar. 12, 1738/9–Apr., 1765.

Journal of quitrents received, 1739–1774. 8 folio vols., commencing Mar. 25, 1739, ending Michaelmas, 1774.

Most of the volume marked "Queens co." is filled with accounts of interest from 1800–1807, by counties, entitled "Taxes and interest."

The volume marked "New York Co." contains also a number of loose sheets, apparently concerning accounts of arrears and commutations of quitrents, dates running down to 1800.

Thick folio ledger; back of binding marked "Book of patents E." Quitrent accounts of patents, No. 1–1562. Dates on debit side, Sept. 29, 1765–Sept. 29, 1787; on credit side, some as late as 1806.

In the case of many accounts the number in the new book is given.

Record of commutation of quitrents, 1800–1806; 1 folio vol.

Index to quitrents (undated).

Does not belong to quitrent ledger No. 1, supra. Contains a table showing the annual quitrent accruing on any number of acres when the rent is at 2s. 6d. per 100 acres, sterling or currency, also the amount of commutation.

Index to patents subject to quitrent. Undated.

Receiver-generals' and auditor-generals' account of quitrents commutation, 1765–96. 246 pp.

Bound in vellum. Labeled "D."

Volume having "E" on cover (back of binding gone), containing a series of 6 quitrent blotters. 412 pp. Oct., 1786–May 26, 1796.

Fly leaf of blotter No. 1 contains a key to the rates at which public certificates were received for quitrents and commutation. In the volume is also a memorandum concerning exemption from quitrents during the war of Revolution.

None of the material on quitrents is referred to in the Bulletin.

Diary of Col. Charles Clinton during his passage from Ireland to America, May 9–Oct. 4, 1729; with journal of his campaign in New York, July to October, 1758, during the French war.

About 20 leaves, 4 x 6 inches, in first part, 30 leaves in second part.

New York city charter of 1730.

Also a copy printed by John Peter Zenger, 1735.

Books of entry (unbound, in file cases).

Case 1, Jan., 1728–Apr., 1730.

Case 2, Jan., 1737/8–Sept. 26, 1741.

Case 3, Sept. 26, 1741–Apr. 3, 1749.

Case 4, Apr. 3, 1749–July 20, 1758.

Case 5, Mar. 31, 1764–Oct., 1766.

Manifest books (15 bound volumes, 1 unbound, 4 file cases containing books unbound).

Vol. 29, July 26, 1753–June 13, 1754.

Vol. 30, June 15, 1754–Aug. 5, 1755.

## Manifest books, etc.—Continued.

- Vol. 32, Sept. 15, 1756—July 26, 1757.  
 Vol. 34, May 23, 1758—Jan. 8, 1759.  
 Vol. 35, Jan. 13, 1759—Aug. 29, 1759.  
 Vol. 36, Aug. 29, 1759—June 30, 1760.  
 Vol. 37, June 30, 1760—Mar. 21, 1761.  
 Vol. 38, Mar. 23, 1761—Oct. 14, 1761.  
 Vol. 39, Oct. 15, 1761—Oct. 11, 1762.  
 Vol. 41, Oct. 3, 1763—June 30, 1764.  
 Vol. 42, June 30, 1764—Apr. 29, 1765.  
 Vol. 44, Apr. 14, 1766—Dec. 19, 1766.  
 Unbound, Sept. 24, 1767—Jan. 28, 1768.  
 Book 3, Nov. 17, 1770—Dec. 17, 1772.  
 Book 4, Jan. 4, 1773—Oct. 24, 1774.  
 Book 5, Oct. 25, 1774—Jan. 19, 1776.  
 Case 1, June 8, 1740—July 7, 1742.  
 Case 2, July 14, 1742—Apr. 17, 1746.  
 Case 3, Apr. 28, 1746—Aug. 10, 1748.  
 Case 4, June 21, 1749—Dec. 8, 1751.

## Shipmasters' bonds (5 vols. bound, 1 unbound); Marine bonds (5 vols.).

These two sets, apparently unrelated, supplement each other as indicated below. The forms in each are identical.

## Shipmasters' bonds.

- Vol. 1, July 8, 1757—June 17, 1758.  
 Vol. 2, June 19, 1758—July 4, 1759.  
 Vol. 3, Oct. 16, 1760—June 2, 1761.  
 Vol. 4, June 5, 1761—Apr. 10, 1762.  
 Vol. 5, Feb. 21, 1763—Jan. 7, 1764.  
 Vol. 6, June 17, 1765—June 20, 1765.

## Marine bonds.

- Vol. 1, Sept. 28, 1753—Nov. 27, 1753; Mar. 24, 1756—July 8, 1757.  
 Vol. 2, July 5, 1759—Oct. 15, 1760; June 2, 1761—June 5, 1761.  
 Vol. 3, Apr. 21, 1762—Feb. 19, 1763.  
 Vol. 4, Jan. 10, 1764—Dec. 19, 1764.  
 Vol. 5, Dec. 19, 1764—Nov. 25, 1765; May 31, 1766—June 24, 1767.

## Indian deeds, warrants of survey, 1692–1714, numbered "1" on the book.

This belongs to a series referred to under the office of secretary of state.

An abridgment in one folio volume of the records of Indian affairs, contained in four folio volumes, transacted in the colony of New York from the year 1678 to the year 1751. By Peter Wraxall. 1 vol. Folio. 224 pp.

This is Wraxall's abridgment of the records of the Indian commissioners, the originals of which are now lost.

## Records of the Indian agency, 1757–1759.

This is marked on the back "Sir William Johnson MSS." and formed a part of that collection.



Indian traders' bonds. Vol. 1, 1765-1768; vol. 2, 1768-1771.

Bulletin, p. 221.

Indian treaties with New York, 1766-1811, being copies of treaties of the Cayugas, Canajoharies, Mohawks, Oneidas, Onondagas, Senecas, and Canada Indians, for the most part with New York; also treaties with the New England Indians, and deeds.

Sir William Johnson's manuscripts. 26 vols., with index, 1 vol., and calendar, 1 vol.

Vol. 1, 1738-1755.

Vol. 2, 1755.

Vol. 3, 1755.

Vol. 4, 1755-1760.

Vol. 5, 1760-1762.

Vol. 6, 1762-1763.

Vol. 7, 1763.

Vol. 8, 1763-1764.

Vol. 9, 1764.

Vol. 10, 1764-1765.

Vol. 11, 1765.

Vol. 12, 1766.

Vol. 13, 1766.

Vol. 14, 1767.

Vol. 15, 1767-1768.

Vol. 16, 1768.

Vol. 17, 1768-1769.

Vol. 18, 1769-1770.

Vol. 19, 1770.

Vol. 20, 1770-1771.

Vol. 21, 1771-1772.

Vol. 22, 1772-1774.

Vol. 23, 1733-1758.

Vol. 24, 1758-1765.

Vol. 25, 1765-1774.

Vol. 26, Appendix.

Vol. 26 includes accounts, 1756-1783; and Sir John Johnson's and Col. Grey Johnson's manuscripts, 1774-1791. Minutes of the committee of safety, October 26, 1775, are inserted in this volume.

The calendar of these papers is dated 1866; the index, 1870.

Bulletin, p. 210.

The Clinton papers follow, as well as a variety of other manuscripts relating to the Revolution and to the period immediately preceding and following it. They are arranged as nearly as possible in chronological order.

Letters of Col. John Bradstreet, D. Q. M. G., and of Gen. Sir Jeffery Amherst, commander in chief of the forces in America, 1755-1771.

Writs of the supreme court of New York, 1757-1762.

Prideaux and Johnson's orderly book. Siege of Fort Niagara, 1759.

Diary of Sir William Johnson, July 28, 1759-Oct. 29, 1761.

About 80 leaves, 4 x 7, written on both sides. A list of garrisons in time of peace (1761) on third leaf from end.

Copy of book of militia appointments, 1759-61. Thin quarto.

George Clinton Papers. 52 vols.

See State Library Bulletin (History) No. 3, p. 211. A fuller description than is given there is hardly possible in this limited space. See also sixty-eighth report of State library, page 11. A calendar of the Washington letters in the series is inserted at the beginning of volume 1. Volumes 1-23 have inserted in front of each volume a carefully prepared calendar of papers contained therein, compiled by Orville Holley. Volumes 24-34 have equally good calendars of their contents, compiled by Judge George W. Clinton. Volumes 35-47 have been calendared, volume 35 by G. R. Howell. Volume 48 contains only a few loose papers; volumes 49-51, only blank leaves. Five additional smaller volumes contain, respectively, leases of lands, with map of Fonda patent; M. B. Tallmadge's account as administrator of the Clinton estate; an account book of George Clinton, 1772-1805; a journal, 1803-1809; a ledger, 1770-1810.

Vol. 1, 1763-1776.

Vol. 2, Jan. 1, 1777-July 25, 1777.

Vol. 3, July 26, 1777-Dec. 31, 1777

Vol. 4, Jan. 1-Apr. 30, 1778.

Vol. 5.

Vol. 6, Sept. 1, 1778-Dec. 31, 1778.

Vol. 7, Jan. 1, 1779-May 31, 1779.

On shelves between volumes 7 and 8 is an account book, 1729-1766, of Col. Charles Clinton, who came from Ireland to New York in 1729.

Vol. 8, June 1, 1778-Dec. 31, 1779.

Vol. 9, Jan. 1, 1780-May 31, 1780.

Vol. 10, June 1, 1780-Aug. 31, 1780.

Vol. 11, Sept. 1, 1780-Dec. 31, 1780.

Vol. 12, Jan. 1, 1781-May 31, 1781.

Vol. 13, June 1, 1781-Sept. 30, 1781.

Vol. 14, Oct. 1, 1781-Dec. 31, 1781.

Vol. 15, Jan. 1, 1782-Jan. 30, 1782.

Vol. 16, July 1, 1782-Dec. 31, 1782.

Vol. 17, Jan. 1, 1783-Dec. 31, 1783.

Vol. 19, Jan. 1, 1784-Dec. 31, 1784.

Vol. 20, Jan. 1, 1785-Dec. 31, 1785.

Vol. 21, Jan. 1, 1786-Dec. 31, 1787.

Vol. 22, Jan. 1, 1788-Dec. 31, 1791.

Vol. 23, Jan. 1, 1792-June, 1800.

Vol. 24, Apr. 4, 1729-Dec. 6, 1794.

Vol. 25, Dec. 30, 1794-Oct. 13, 1800.

Vol. 26, Oct. 14, 1800-Apr. 28, 1802.

Vol. 27, May 1, 1802-Sept. 20, 1803.

## George Clinton Papers—Continued.

Vol. 28, Sept. 21, 1803–Dec. 31, 1804.

Vol. 29, Jan. 6, 1805–Dec. 31, 1808.

Vol. 30, Jan. 8, 1809–Dec. 20, 1810.

Vol. 31, Jan. 4, 1811–Oct. 13, 1813.

Vol. 32, Nov. 3, 1813–Dec. 24, 1814.

Vol. 33, Feb. 4, 1815–Dec. 8, 1817.

Vol. 34, Jan. 20, 1818–Sept. 18, 1844.

Miscellaneous. 2 vols.

Vol. 35, 1755–1804.

Vol. 36, 1805–1827.

Deeds and maps. 2 vols.

Vol. 37.

Vol. 38.

New York City. 1 vol.

Vol. 39.

Kayaderosseras. 3 vols.

Vol. 40.

Vol. 41.

Vol. 42.

Dutchess County. 2 vols.

Vol. 43, Little partners.

Vol. 44.

Fonda and Oriskany patents. 1 vol.

Vol. 45.

Oneida and Delaware counties. 1 vol.

Vol. 46.

Various counties. 1 vol.

Vol. 47.

Vol. 48, some dozen or more loose letters bearing dates from about 1775 to about 1810.

Vol. 49, blank leaves.

Vol. 50, blank leaves.

Vol. 51, blank leaves.

Five smaller volumes, account books as indicated above.

Index, full and complete for vols. 1–28, in 8 file cases, including all names mentioned.

Vol. 39, New York City, contains 366 manuscripts of various sorts, referring usually to real estate or land in some form or other. Document No. 2 is George Gossman's receipt to Clinton for rent of house at 24 Courtlandt street; 6–10 are accounts of repairs on Wycoff houses, Great Dock street; 47 refers to proposed sale of a distillery; 48–52 are memoranda of prices of certain lots, expense of filling in lots, bad debts on the sale of rum, location of a shop, indebtedness to Clinton; 86 is a contract ("agreement") for converting storehouse of distillery into a dwelling house; 90–92, leases for houses; 117, account for material furnished; 256, a summons in chancery, *Deming v. Heirs of Clinton*. In general, the papers deal thus with items of purchase, lease, mortgage, repairs, rents, etc.

Some minor papers, not included in the above set, are as follows:

- George Clinton's lands: Accounts with purchasers and description of lands. About 160 pp.
- Accounts of George Clinton with purchasers of his lands. 138 double pages ledger accounts.
- An index of loose papers in closets, including, among other things, the contents of two packages of Clinton papers received before 1854.

Package No. 1 contains accounts of sheriff's fees; register of suits in which the entries were lost, 1781; various accounts, surveys, etc.

Perhaps the most interesting item in package No. 2 is George Clinton's diary of a privateering cruise on the *Defiance*, 1758. The MS. consists of about 8 leaves of a small notebook. Clinton says without apology, "We hoisted French coulers," to lure a supposed French vessel within range. But this particular vessel proved to be Dutch. The package contains also accounts with persons who obtained tracts in Fonda's patent, letters, last will of Jacobus van Orden, etc.

In addition to the Clinton papers there is a large box of manuscripts which probably came to the library along with that collection. They are evidently the private and public papers of Judge William Burnet Tallmadge. The principal contents of the box are as follows:

- Martin Hoffman's papers, June, 1739-1750.
- John Van Ness, account settled, 1760.
- Pedrus Edmundus Elmendorphe, docket of writs issued by him, May 1, 1761-June 22, 1765.
- Letters, 1770-1771, Hoffman.
- "John Dorton, His Leidger commenced July 1, 1773. Leidger A." Last entry, May 1, 1776.
- Trial of May and others for counterfeiting paper, 1783.
- Letters, 1785.
- Notebook of legal precedents, by W. B. Tallmadge, 1800.
- Extracts from Philosophy, by W. B. Tallmadge.
- Law opinions. Packet.
- Duplicate of book left with Matthias B. Tallmadge, June, 1804, with the cash accounts, bonds, and papers therein referred to. No. 22.
- Court of errors, 1805. Minutes.
- Minutes of circuit court, Apr., 1806-Sept., 1807, excepting trial of Ogden and Smith.
- Charge to grand jury, Oct. 15, 1807.
- "Letters from Gen'l Bailey received during my winter's absence in 1814-15 to the South."
- "Letters rec'd from friends at the South in winter of 1815."
- Canandaigua court, October term, 1817.
- Circular (printed) of the Louisiana Society for Baptist Missions, Foreign and Domestic, 1817.

The following, without dates, are memoranda copied from the outside of various packages in the box:

- Package of letters to Martin Hoffman, at Red Hook.
- Package marked "Widow Bellinger."

- Notebook containing "An Abstract of the Bonds and Notes belonging to the Estate of Coll. Martin Hoffman Deceased."
- Package of letters marked "Col. Martin Hoffman's Papers."
- Package marked "Hoffman letters."
- Package marked "Accts. Settled, Hoffmann."
- Mr. Lotts, Jas. Abeel, J. Sands, J. Heyer, letters and papers.
- Fort Hunter land papers.
- Package, "Accts. Settled."
- Orders for payment of money, northern district court.
- Bonds, notes collected, and other papers.
- Martin Hoffman papers.
- Cases in court of errors.
- Papers relating to James and Matthias Burnet Tallmadge.
- Papers relating to Bowling Green House.
- New York district court and the monies peculated therefrom.
- Politica, &c. Small packet badly stained and eaten by age.
- Packet relating to the "Investigation into my Official Conduct."
- Charles and George Caldwell. Packet of letters.
- France's Maxims, *Lex Mercatoria Americana*. Packet.
- Pig Iron Carter's Order, 1771.
- Anthony Hoffman's Papers.
- Forty-seven additional packages of miscellaneous letters, court documents, receipts, memoranda, etc.
- Military commissions issued in blank over the signature of Sir Henry Moore, Oct. 3–Oct. 15, 1768.
- Four brief diaries of Rev. Samuel Kirkland, missionary to the Oneida Indians, written between the years 1769 and 1793.
- In a volume entitled "Letters on Indian Affairs," 1785–1825, to which reference is made later, is another diary of Kirkland, Sept. 23–Dec., 1788. This is printed in Ketchum's *History of Buffalo*, Volume II, pp. 97–110. Still another not in print relates to Kirkland's visit to a council of the Six Nations in September, 1788, in which a decision favorable to the Phelps and Gorham purchase was reached. Several letters of S. Kirkland are among the Sir William Johnson manuscripts.
- Papers laid before the Provincial Congress and minutes of the same, 1775–1778. 22 vols., consecutively numbered, and originally part of some larger series:
- Vol. 24, Credentials of delegates to the Provincial Congress in New York, 1775.
- Vol. 25, Military committee minutes.
- Contains a number of manuscript maps, 1775, 1776, 1777, 1778.
- Vol. 26, Military returns, etc., 1775.
- Vol. 27, Military returns, etc., 1776.
- Vol. 28, Military returns, etc., 1779–1780.
- Vol. 29, Military returns, etc., 1780.
- Vol. 30, Associations and miscellaneous papers, 1775.
- Vol. 31, Petitions, 1775.
- Vol. 33, Petitions, 1776.

Papers laid before the Provincial Congress, etc.—Continued.

Vol. 33, Petitions, 1776-1777.

Vol. 34, Miscellaneous papers, 1775-1776.

Vol. 35, Miscellaneous papers, 1776.

Vol. 36, Miscellaneous papers, 1776-1777.

Vol. 37, Miscellaneous papers, 1777.

Vol. 38, Miscellaneous papers, 1777.

Vol. 39, Miscellaneous papers, 1777-1778.

Vol. 40, Original drafts of minutes of the provincial convention of New York, 1775.

Vol. 41, Original drafts of minutes of the provincial convention of New York, 1775-1776.

Vol. 42, Original drafts of minutes of the provincial convention of New York, 1775-1777.

Vol. 43, Original drafts of minutes of the provincial convention of New York, 1776-1777.

Vol. 44, Original drafts of minutes of the provincial convention of New York, 1777.

Vol. 45, Original drafts of minutes of the provincial convention of New York, 1777-1778.

Volumes 40-45 are the original drafts of the minutes from which the copies in 10 volumes, later referred to, were made.

Selections from volumes 2, 4, and 39 are in *Calendar of New York Historical Manuscripts, Revolutionary*, Albany, 1868.

Bulletin, p. 222.

Account book, narrow folio, 1770-1772.

Entries (2) dutiable goods. Account book, June 2, 1770-Jan. 19, 1776.  
Indexed.

Paper money. Two scrapbook volumes, containing samples of paper money, etc. Feb. 17, 1770-Apr. 1, 1864.

Accounts respecting Abraham De Peyster's estate. Settlement made May 1, 1772. Thin paper folio.

Gen. John Lacey papers, 1773-1782. Copies. 1 folio vol.

"A Book Containing an Account of Lands Sold in Colchester, Essex, Jerico, Burlington, Shelburn, Georgia, Willeston, Newhuntington, Hindsborough, Charlotte," Nov. 17, 1774.

Judd, Eben W. Account book, 1774.

Judd, Eben W. Memorandum book: the dairy and accounts of Eben W. Judd, 1794-95.

Judd, Eben W. A journal of the survey of the Upper Coos, 1786.

About 150 leaves, 4 x 6, ragged and stained.

Judd, Eben W. "Journal for the year of our Lord Christ, 1800. Began in Woodstock Prison."

About 60 leaves, unbound.

Judd, Eben W. Journal of survey. Lemington, 1787.

About 40 pp., unbound.

"Record of Vouchers for survey articles charged by the State of New York to the U. S." June 10, 1775-June, 1777.

"Index to Auditor's Leger, 1," 1775-93.

Proceedings of the Albany committee of correspondence. 2 folio vols.:  
vol. 1, Jan. 24, 1775-June 12, 1776, 437 numbered pages; vol. 2, June 12,  
1776-June 10, 1778, about 500 pages.

Minutes of Provincial Congress and the Committee of Safety. 10 folio  
vols.:

- Vol. 1, 1775.
- Vol. 2, 1775.
- Vol. 3, 1775.
- Vol. 4, 1775-1776.
- Vol. 5, 1776.
- Vol. 6, 1776.
- Vol. 7, 1777.
- Vol. 8, 1777.
- Vol. 9, 1777.
- Vol. 10, 1777-1778.

Printed as Vol. 1 of Journals of Provincial Congress, Albany, 1842.

Auditor's Journal, I, June, 1775-Dec., 1785.

Auditor's Journal, II, 1786-1793.

In same volume is New York (State) treasurer's ledger, 1775-1782.

Treasurer's Journal, I, June 1, 1775-Oct. 2, 1789.

Treasurer's Journal, II, Sept. 1, 1778-Sept. 20, 1784.

Treasurer's accounts. 4 vols., folio.

- Vol. 1, 1751-1767.
- Vol. 2, 1775-1780.
- Vol. 3, 1781-1785.
- Vol. 4, 1787-1797.

Volumes 2-4, bound alike and marked "Comptroller's office," are jour-  
nals. Volume 1 is a ledger and does not belong to the set.

New York (State) treasury. Journal. Vol. 1, June 1, 1775-Oct. 2, 1782,  
280 (+ 88 blank) pp., folio; vol. 2, Sept. 18, 1778-Sept. 20, 1784, 178-343  
(+22 blank) pp., folio.

For ledger belonging to Treasurer's Journal, I, see New York (State)  
treasurer accounts, part 2.

New York (State) treasurer. Ledger, 1775-82.

See New York (State) auditor, Journal 2, accounts of G. Bancker, 1786-93,  
part 2.

For journal corresponding to this ledger, see New York (State) treasurer  
Journal I, 1775-82.

New York (State) treasurer. Day book II. Apr. 1, 1778-Sept., 1784.

This is marked on the back Apr. 1, 1778-Sept., 1794. From page 14 to end  
it is the same as treasurer's Journal I, while the entries on pp. 1-14 are in  
Journal I.

Index to volumes numbered 26 and 27, entitled "Military returns, 1775,"  
and "Military returns, 1776;" also of names in volumes 1-4 of "Min-  
utes of the Provincial Congress;" also of Volumes 1, 2, 3, 4 of minutes  
of the Provincial Congress and committee of safety.

Revolutionary papers. 12 folio vols.

Vols. 1 and 2, 1775.

Vol. 3, 1775-1776.

Vols. 4, 5, 6, 7, 1776.

Vol. 8, 1776-1777.

Vols. 9, 10, 11, 12, 1777.

Printed as Volume II, of *Journal of Provincial Congress*, Albany, 1842.

Suffolk County regiment, 1776.

Bulletin, p. 227.

Proceedings against disaffected persons, 1776.

Minutes of actions, resolutions, names of persons apprehended, etc., by the committee appointed June 5, 1776, by the Provincial Congress of New York. The minutes begin June 15, 1776, and end abruptly July 2, 1776. 28 leaves, folio.

A narrative of the treatment with which the American prisoners were used who were taken by the British and Hessian troops on Long Island, York Island, etc., 1776, with some occasional observations thereon.

By Jabez Fitch. Copied from the original manuscript verbatim et literatim, by Chas. L. Bushnell.

One volume, 119 pages, alternate leaves blank, with occasional notes thereon by the transcriber. Refers to the prison ships, etc. The narrative is followed by 69 pages of poems.

List of Revolutionary pensioners of New York, copied from the records at Washington by Mr. W. Valentine, of Albany.

Volume 1, 225 numbered pages, 8x10 inches, with 4 manuscript pamphlets bound in with first list; volume 2, similar lists.

Valentine was a "pension lawyer" ["A voluntary agent for securing pensions," vol. 2, title page], as appears from a printed circular pasted on the fly leaf.

New York quartermaster-general's ledger, 1776-77. 1 vol., folio.

Letter book of Henry Glen, deputy commissary-general during the Revolutionary war: containing copies of his letters on public business, from Schenectady, July 6, 1776-Feb. 24, 1780. 1 thin folio vol.

"A true copy (from the original) of a Rec't Book of Sundry Sums of Money received from the Publick, also of the several Sums disbursed for the publick service—with the names of the different Persons Receiving the same agreeable to the respective Vouchers delivered to Henry Glen, A. D. Qr. M. G."

Begins June, 1776.

A volume, roughly bound, containing a "livraison beginning Jan. 22, 1776 . . . a portion of the *Journal of the Proceedings of the Committee of Safety* . . . printed in the *Journal of the New York Provincial Congress and of Proceedings of the Committee of Safety in Vol. I, p. 260,*" and a bundle of papers, beginning Sept. 28, 1776. "Apparently Vol. I of the '*Journal of proceedings of the committee for detecting and defeating conspiracies against the liberty of the country*': of which we have the *Journal of Proceedings of this Committee for 1777*. They do not appear to have been printed."

Note by G. R. Howell.



Minutes of the commissioners appointed by the legislature of the State of New York for inquiring into, detecting, and defeating all conspiracies which may be formed in the said State against the liberties of America. 2 folio vols. Vol. 1, 1778, 243 numbered pages; vol. 2, 1778-1781, about 325 pages.

Bulletin, p. 210.

“New York regiments, 1776-83. Land patents.”

List of officers and men of the First and Second New York regiments, New York regiment of artillery, and corps of sappers and miners, receiving land patents—giving name, township, number of lot, acres, and date of patent. Gives also list of the dead of the several regiments. Fly leaf gives names and numbers of the military townships.

“New York regiments, 1776-83. Bounty lands.”

Same as above, lacking dates of the patents.

The papers referred to in this and the previous entry are duplicates of some which were printed in the Balloting Book, New York, 1825.

By Stander's and Plain Sense's Letters, 1776-1783.

A series of imaginary letters containing maxims of conduct, prospects of war, the war itself, etc.

Five volumes labeled “New York State council papers.” Vols. 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, “secretary's office.”

Volumes 2-5 are blank leaves only. Volume 1 contains commissions of persons appointed to handle forfeited estates; judges; confessions of robbers; census of several precincts, 1782; a memorial from John Jay, N. Y. July 10, 1785, etc.

Several of the commissions, etc., correspond in names and dates with items entered in the minutes of the council of appointment, 1777, 1786. The documents seem to be the papers of that body, upon which their action and minutes are based.

Beverly Robinson estate, account of sales, Highlands, April 21, 1777. 116 pp., folio.

Journal of committee on privileges and election, transcribed for the assembly by their order by Aaron Clark, clerk of assembly, Jan. 4, 1820. 1 vol. 1777-1837.

Index of letters to General Washington: of 2 vols., entitled “New Hampshire Grants;” of letters, 1777, concerning capture of Burgoyne and English capture of Ticonderoga.

This seems to be a memorandum of papers in the State Department at Washington, made by H. Stevens.

Papers relating to the Vermont controversy, 1777-1779. 1 volume, quarto, indexed.

Letters of William Tryon, governor of the colony of New York, to Rev. Samuel Buel, D.D., of East Hampton, L. I., with other papers, 1777-1780. 1 vol., folio.

Minutes of the council of appointment, 1777-1786. Vol. 1.

Includes civil and military appointments, with separate manuscript index by G. R. Howell.

Other volumes are in the office of the secretary of state.

New York senate journal. 3 vols.

Vol. 1, session 1, 1777-78; session 3, 1779-80.

Vol. 2, session 7, 1784; session 9, 1786.

Vol. 3, session 10, 1787, to session 15, 1792.

Assembly papers, 1777-1831. 44 vols., folio.

Bulletin, p. 212.

In pursuance of a vote of the assembly, April 20, 1830, these were examined and arranged by Azariah C. Flagg, in June and July, 1831. He made selections therefrom and deposited them in the office of the secretary of state, bound in 45 volumes and lettered "Assembly papers." The rest of the papers were arranged chronologically and deposited in boxes which were placed in one of the committee rooms at the capitol. The volumes of selected papers are now in the manuscript room of the State library, in the floor stacks. Of the 45 volumes spoken of by Flagg, No. 44 is missing. No. 45 is entitled "Frontiers miscellaneous, 1794."

Flagg gives the following account of the principle followed in selection, in a broadside pasted inside the cover of each volume:

"The papers selected and deposited in the secretary's office . . . consist generally of petitions and all papers having relation to estates confiscated for adherence to the enemy during the American Revolution.

"Petitions of Revolutionary soldiers and the reports and papers connected therewith,

"Petitions of heirs, executors, and administrators in relation to the real estates of deceased persons.

"The original annual and other messages of the several executives made to the assembly.

"The reports of the attorney-general.

"The reports of the comptroller,

"The reports of the surveyor-general.

"The resolutions of other States in reference to amendments to the United States Constitution.

"The petitions generally, for claims against the State, for lands, and contracts on the canals.

"And all documents which it was conceived could have any important bearing upon the history or interests of the State or the rights of individuals." . . .

The boxes, arranged in chronological order, are now to be found in the gallery of the manuscript room, State library. One file box contains all the papers there are from 1696-1786. From 1786-1800 there is an average of about one box for each year; after 1815, a dozen or more for each year.

The papers deposited in the boxes are, generally, petitions and reports in relation to the division of towns and counties; the incorporation of cities and villages; the location of county buildings; the incorporation of turn-pikes and bridges; the construction of canals; clearing rivers and declaring them public highways; the erection of dams and wharves; the encouragement of manufactories and incorporations therefor; reports in relation to the militia and military stores; physicians and licensed practitioners; petitions for divorces; the destruction of wolves and other noxious animals; changing names, etc.

The bound volumes of selected papers, Nos. 1-13, entitled "Miscellaneous," contain much matter of great interest, arranged, however, only in rough chronological order. Upon a hasty examination such things were found as the following: Resolutions of meetings reciting public grievances; resolutions of the assembly for inquiring into and encouraging mechanical inventions; memorials from chambers of commerce and reports of committees upon them; reports of committees to inquire concerning canal construction; reports of the canal commissioners, etc. It would be difficult to overestimate the importance of the service which would be rendered by an adequate calendaring of these 13 volumes of miscellaneous documents.

New York arms and seals, 1778-1882. Scrapbook.

Civil and military commissions, June 15, 1778-Mar. 21, 1783. 1 vol.  
23 commissions.

Lists of treasurer's certificates issued for military service. 10 thin folio volumes, each indexed in separate book, with a separate index of captains and colonels.

The first date in volume 1 is April 9, 1778; the last in volume 10 is January 1, 1810. These dates are misleading, however, as 1779 comes both before and after 1780, etc. All the names are printed as "Roster of State troops" in volume 15 of Fernow's N. Y. Col. Docs., Archives, vol. 1.

Sir Henry Clinton's letter to Lord George Germain, transmitting heads of intelligence from the rebel country, Jan. 11, 1779. 3½ pp.

Set of four folios, entitled "Invalids pensions A, 1784-6; Invalids pensions B; Pension board, minutes of 1787, C; Invalids pensions 1788, D."

Volume A begins "Liste of Pensions Paid by the State of New York to Invalids agreeable to Resolve of Congress dated 26 August 1776 & 25 September 1778 Pursuance of a Law of the State passed the 10 March 1779."

Volume A contains minutes from Apr. 18, 1779, to June, 1785; B, from Feb. 7, 1787, to June 2, 1787; C, from June 2, 1787, to June 12, 1788; D, from June 16, 1788, to Dec. 31, 1788. There is an index to the four volumes.

There is a separate folio volume containing minutes from June 2, 1786, to Aug. 2, 1786, and three unbound paper folios, marked on the outside Aa, Bb, Cc. Aa is a book of accounts of payments of pensions to Jan. 1, 1789; Bb contains minutes of pension board from Apr. 15, 1789, to May 26, 1789; Cc, the same, from May 27, 1789, to Oct. 7, 1789. There is an index to each folio.

"Book of receipts for interest paid on loan-office certificates by Dirck Ten Broeck, commissioner of loans for the State of New York, beginning the twelfth day of March, 1779."

Fort Edward garrison orders, 1779.

Certificates issued by assistant State agents, 1780.

Provisions for the Army.

List of depreciation certificates, 1780.

Vermont military pay book, 1780.

From Stevens papers.

Votes and proceedings of the assembly of the State of New York, at the first meeting of the fourth session, Poughkeepsie, Sept. 7, 1780.

From the printed copy in the library of the New York Historical Society, copied and compared under the direction of George Henry Moore, librarian. 1 vol., thin folio. 81 pp.

Account of certificates issued by State agents, 1780-81. 140 pp.

Account book containing accounts of officers and men of 8 companies, from Aug., 1780, to May, 1783. 143 pp.

The remainder of the book is differently paged, beginning with page 5 and containing "Pay abstracts of the troops of this State in the service of the United States for August, September, October, November, and December, 1780." There is an index.

Folio volume containing certificates of assistant State agents, accounts of prisoners' pay, payment of pensions to widows and orphans, etc., 1780-90. 38 pp. Reverse side 69 pp.

Accounts of quartermasters, field officers, commissaries of stores, etc., 1775-78.

Delivery book B of James Monell, "late assistant State agent," undated.

Certificates of Assistant State Agent Daniel Fier, Aug. 30, 1785.

Index of accounts of Matthew DuBois, assistant State agent, undated.

List of State agent certificates, undated.

List of Curtenius's certificates.

#### New York legislative papers.

Volumes are not numbered. The contents are classified as follows, each volume covering the period from 1780-1803:

Academies, bills, 1 vol.

Bills, 2 vols.

Bills, boundaries, 1 vol.

Bridges, counties, 1 vol.

Counties, courts, 1 vol.

Courts, currency, 1 vol.

Currency, estates, 1 vol.

Estates, insolvency, 1 vol.

Insolvency, lands, 1 vol.

Lands, provisions and supplies, 1 vol.

Provisions and supplies, taxes, 1 vol.

Taxes, whaling, 1 vol.

Case of rolls filed in court for correction of errors, 1 case.

Index, 1 vol.

Bulletin, p. 212.

List of certificates for pay of New York Line, 1781. Book A. Thin folio.

Pay roll of the New York Line for 1781. Index.

Accounts of Jas. Moore, A. C. T. Supplies of provisions to the New York troops in the Revolutionary war in 1781.

Contains also muster roll of Capt. T. Hopper's company in the Fifth Regiment of Militia.

Narrative of Avery Downer, M. D., for the sixty-eighth anniversary of the battle of Fort Griswold on the 6th of September, 1781. 10 pp., large note size. MS. map at end.

Frederick Jay. Sales at Auction. 1781-1784. Thin folio. 1 vol., unbound.

Correspondence of State auditor; acts of New York State legislature; acts of United States Congress.

Relates to settlement of the claims of New York against the United States.

Copy of a list of levy certificates, May 21, 1783-Oct. 23, 1789. Thin folio.

Audited accounts:

Vol. A, May 22, 1783-Mar. 17, 1786.

Vol. B, Mar. 17, 1786-Oct. 31, 1794.

These have been used in Fernow's Archives, vol. 1.

Sales of forfeited lands:

Abstract of sales of forfeited lands in the southern district, May 13–July 12, 1784. Pp. 1–18.

Abstract of sales of forfeited lands in the southern district for bills of new emission or specie, Aug. 2, 1784–July 10, 1786. Pp. 18–28.

Abstract of sales of forfeited lands in the southern district for public securities, Oct. 21, 1784–Aug. 3, 1786. Pp. 29–66.

Duties on imports to New York. Mar. 24, 1784–Nov. 18, 1784. Thin folio vol.

“List of certificates for bounty rights deposited in 1784 in the surveyor-general’s office, with locations.”

Giving “By whom deposited, Soldier’s name, Muster master’s name, In whose regiment, By whom delivered, No. of acres.”

Original minutes of the land office of the State of New York. 1785–98. Indexed.

Letters on Indian Affairs. 1785–1825. One vol.

Contains the journals of S. Kirkland, previously referred to.

Securities loaned to the State. Bills of credit issued, 1786. Two vols., A and B.

Military appointments, 1786–1802.

Index to vols. 2, 3, and 5 of the Minutes of the Council of Appointment, 1786–1802, in the office of the secretary of state. The index is by counties.

Accounts of patentees of land with the State, to 1787.

Zephaniah Platt’s receipt book. Plattsburgh, N. Y., 1787–1798.

About 20 leaves, 4x6. Autograph signatures and writing, as in Burr’s receipt book.

Copies of receipts for claims by New York against the United States Government, 1787–88.

Index to soldiers’ names. Thin folio.

Persons indebted for Revolutionary searches and certificates. An index.

Proceedings of the convention of the State of New York to ratify the proposed Constitution of the United States, Poughkeepsie, June 17, 1788–July 26, 1788. Thin folio. 1 vol. 79 pp.

Autograph signatures of George Clinton, Alexander Hamilton, Lewis Morris, Ph. Livingston, John Jay, etc., on last pages.

Custom-house seizures, 1788–89.

List of bills of credit and certificates canceled by Messrs. McCormick, Hoffman, Depeyster, and Wyckoff, 1789.

Treasurer’s certificates of payments of quit rents, 1789–1800.

“New money received in and old money put up for cancelling,” 1786–88, and “Laws received and delivered out,” 1790.

Continental certificates given in exchange for State certificates, Dec. 31, 1790.

“List of barbers certificates exchanged for State certificates,” 1790.

A volume with binder's title, "New York military register."

On first page is the statement "Copy of a Register taken from the Rolls, shewing Names alphabetically, Rank, dates of commissions and enlistments, periods enlisted for, Occurrences, of Officers, Non-commissioned and privates of New York Line of late Army."

Bulletin, p. 222.

A volume with binder's title "Military balloting book," 1790-1794.

Fly leaf adds: "Relating to Military Bounty Lands in the State of New York and Containing names of soldiers from New York in the Revolutionary war entitled to bounty."

Contains schedule of allowance of bounty lands by Congress and the State of New York; an "Explanation of the Columns of this Book which contains a list of Persons' names entitled to a gratuity of Lands for their Military Services;" the list—First New York Regiment, Second New York Regiment, New York Regiment of Artillery, Corps of Sappers and Miners, commissioned officers; the dead of the several regiments; Connolly's original returns of the New York regiments; returns of the artillery regiment by Col. John Lamb; Connolly's original returns of the dead of the several regiments, of commissioned officers resigned, of corps of sappers and miners, and of invalids and discharged men; queries by Michael Connolly; military townships; lots in numerical order; certificates concerning gospel, school, literature lots; list of the Canadian and Nova Scotia refugees entitled to lands in the State of New York, with the lots that were balloted to them.

Bulletin, p. 220.

Indian treaties. 7 file cases of original parchments.

Case 1, Cayugas, 1790, 1795, 1797, 1807.

Case 2, Oneidas, 1788, 1795, 1798, 1802, 1807, 1809, 1810, 1811, 1815, 1817, 1818.

Case 3, receipts for sums paid at sundry times to the Oneidas, Onondagas, Tuscaroras, and Cayugas, 1789-1796.

Case 4, Onondagas, 1790, 1793, 1795, 1817.

Case 5, Senecas, 1796, 1797, 1816, 1818; St. Regis, 1796, 1797, 1816, 1818; Stockbridge Indians, 1818, 1822.

Case 6, treaties and deeds—Five Nations to John Vaughan, 1766; Canajoharie Indians to William Trent, 1769; Senecas, Cayugas, and Onondagas to George I, 1726. Five Nations, alliance with, 1797, to build a fort, etc.

Case 7, Deeds, Oneidas, German flats, north of Mohawk, 1766. Same, south of Mohawk, 1766.

An account of certificates for claims on forfeited estates received in and exchanged for 6 per cent stock, pursuant to a law passed Feb. 23, 1791. List of principal certificates to Aug. 3, 1791, inclusive. Original and copy and list of new principal certificates.

Levy and militia pay undrawn, Mar. 7, 1793. Book D. D. Thin folio. Journal of the assembly of the State of New York. 3 vols.

Vol. 1, sixteenth session, 1792-93.

Vol. 3, seventeenth session, 1794.

Vol. 4, nineteenth session, 1796-97.

New York commissioners of bridges. 2 small vols. General accounts and memoranda.

Vol. 1, 1792-95.

Vol. 2, 1792-94.

Memoranda of proceedings of George Clinton and Elizabeth Tappen as executors of will of Peter Tappen, 1793.

Only about a dozen pages of the notebook are written upon. Two pages are taken up with a table of distances from Albany to Cohoes Falls, Fort Edward, etc.

Receipts of individuals for cash for work done on the fortifications on Governor's and Bedloe's islands, 1794.

Receipts of Ebenezer Stevens for the State of New York, 1794.

Receipt book of Capt. Ebenezer Stevens, Commissary-General, 1794-95.  
1 small vol.

New York Society of Associated Teachers. Minutes 1794-1807.

Census volumes:

1795, 1 thin folio vol.

1801, 1 thin folio vol. and 1 thick folio marked "Imperfect."

1807, 1 thin folio vol. and 3 thick folios marked "Imperfect."

1814, 1 thin folio vol. and 1 thick folio marked "Imperfect."

1821, 1 thin folio vol. and 1 thick folio marked "Imperfect."

The thin volumes contain tabulations of returns, the thick volumes the returns themselves. Censuses for 1795, 1801, and 1807 were of electors. Censuses for 1814 and 1821 were of electors and inhabitants.

There is, besides, a thick folio volume, "Census of New York City, 1814-21." Imperfect.

A thin folio volume labeled "Census of the electors and inhabitants of the State of New York, 1814," contains memoranda of copies of laws of different sessions, and certain reports to be sent to the Secretary of State of the United States, to the county clerks of New York, and to the governors of States, 1820-1838.

Ledger, apparently accounts of Union College, 1795-1852. 2 vols.

Sales of the Oneida Reservation, 1796-97.

Minutes of the commissioners appointed to hear and determine all claims to lands in the State of Vermont under grants from the late colony of New York not intended as confirmations of grants from New Hampshire, July 10, 1797-Aug. 30, 1800. Pp. 194.

Inventory or lists of papers deposited by General Bancker, esq., late treasurer of the State of New York, in the comptroller's office, secretary's office, Bank of New York, Bank of Albany, pursuant to a law of the State of New York, entitled "An act relative to the treasury of this State," passed Mar. 19, 1798.

Onondaga commissioners' minutes. 18 vols., about 16°, averaging about 500 pp.

Volumes are not numbered. Material is grouped chronologically, dates of different volumes frequently overlapping. For instance, the first volume in order on the shelves covers June 5, 1798-Oct. 23, 1798; the third, Sept. 1, 1798-Dec. 20, 1799; the sixth, Dec. 3, 1798-May 21, 1800; and so on with the intervening and succeeding volumes, the earliest date being June 5, 1798, the latest Feb. 15, 1802. One volume is taken up with names of patentees of lands in the Onondaga tract.

Onondaga claims, 1801. 2 vols., folio.

Vol. 1, Minutes of sessions of the Onondaga commissioners,  
Oct. 3-Nov. 27, 1801.

Vol. 2, Minutes of claims.

## PAPERS RELATING TO THE MORE RECENT HISTORY OF THE STATE.

Adjutant-general's office. General orders from headquarters. Solomon Van Rensselaer, Adj. Gen. March 9, 1800—Feb. 25, 1808. One small volume.

Maps of land patents, viz: Oriskany, Whitesborough, Sumner's, Banyar's, Fonda's and Skinner's patents. 1801.

About 15 leaves, 5 x 7 inches, of manuscript maps in colors, accompanied by explanatory notes. Apparently a valuable manuscript compiled by George Clinton.

Register of the children of slaves abandoned.

"State Prison a c" is written on the *ends* of the leaves at bottom. Contains lists of names of abandoned children; by whom abandoned; often the date and place of abandonment; with dates and amounts paid by the State for support.

Commissions and supersedeas. Entries by the governor, 1803-1814.

Records of the Medical Society of the State of New York.

Vol. I, Feb. 1807—Feb. 3, 1838.

Vol. II, Feb. 5, 1839—to the "Semi Centennial Supper" (1857).

Vol. III, Feb. 2, 1858—Feb. 4, 1868.

Vol. IV, labeled on back "Minutes, 1869." Begins in fact with the meeting of Feb. 4, 1873. and ends with Feb. 4, 1875.

Register of the Medical Society of the State of New York, 1871-1888.

D. D. Tompkins Papers. 15 vols.

Bulletin, p. 225.

Report of the commissioners under the act entitled "An act respecting a claim for the extension of the eastern boundary of the State of New Jersey," filed by his Excellency Daniel D. Tompkins, April 19, 1808. 1 folio volume.

Receipt book of John McLean, commissary-general of New York, 1808-19.

Papers relating to the embargo and war.

Jefferson County, 1808-15.

Official papers of Hart Massey, collector of the district of Sackett's Harbor, 1808-1815.

Orderly book of Forty-first British Regiment, 1809-10. About 250 pp.

Comptroller's accounts with mortgagees, 1811-1812.

Ogdensburg military papers, 1812. 1 vol.

Minutes of proceedings by the authorities of the Oneida Brigade, 1812. 1 small folio vol.

Abstracts, quartermaster's department, 1812-1813. 1 vol., thin folio.

Higbie's journal and order book, 1812-1814; with "American Whig Club, 1809." Thin letter-sheet size note book, about 40 pp.

Bundle of papers—muster, receipt, and pay rolls of exchanged prisoners to June 30, 1814; same set of rolls for a detachment of exchanged militia to Apr. 30, 1814; the same to Feb. 28, 1814.



- Letters of Col. Ferris Pell as commissioner to settle the claims of New York citizens against the United States Government for services in the war of 1812. 1819-20. About 250 pp., folio.
- Stenographic report, in shorthand, by M. and C. Goulds, of the debates at the constitutional convention held in the State of New York, 1821. About 700 pp., 8x10.
- Common-school returns, 1821-22.
- National armory commissioners' papers, 1823-24.
- West Point laboratory instruction in ordnance duties, 1824.
- Collection of letters to Henry O'Reilly, of Rochester, N. Y., 1824-44. 2 vols.
- Meteorological observations of various academies, 1826-1850, 1856-57. 27 vols.
- Record of the foundation of the Central Sabbath School Union of New York, 1827-1831.
- Attorney-general's reports of foreclosure of mortgages, 1831-32. 1 vol.
- Solicitor's oath of office, New York court of chancery, 1833-1847.  
Signed by 826 attorneys before practicing there.
- Dearborn's mission from Massachusetts to the Senecas and Tuscaroras. 3 vols., tall oct.  
Vol. I, 1838-39.  
Vol. II, 1838-39.  
Vol. III, 1838-39.  
Bulletin, p. 214.
- Constitutional convention of New York, 1846. Reports and documents. 1 vol., folio.
- Journals of the New York constitutional convention of 1846. 4 vols.  
Vol. 1, June 1-July 22.  
Vol. 2, July 23-Sept. 4.  
Vol. 3, Sept. 5-Sept. 30.  
Vol. 4, Oct. 1-Oct. 9.  
Each volume averages about 300 leaves, legal-cap size.
- Putnam Continental Artillery, Company C, Albany, 1854-59.  
Minutes of business meetings and accounts of the company.
- Fort Jackson guard book, 1861. 1 vol. Thin folio.
- Adjutant-general. Bundle of papers "containing all the general and special orders that have been printed. 16 Apr., 1861-2."
- F. J. D'Avignon, sanitary report of the Ninety-sixth New York Volunteers, 1863.
- Clerk of the Senate. Binder's title, "Executive Journal." Sessions 1880-81.
- Senate. Executive Journal, Jan. 15, 1880-Mar. 22, 1882. 851 pp.
- Register of the appointments of the governor, 1864-1865. 1 folio vol. 86 pp., indexed.
- Register of the appointments of the governor, 1866-1867. 1 folio vol. 190 pp., indexed.
- Register of the appointments of the governor, 1882, 1883, 1884, 1885. 1 folio vol.

Clerk of the assembly, general orders, 1878 and 1879.

Memorials concerning preservation of Adirondack forests. 1 vol.

Arranged by counties.

Senate Committee on Affairs of Cities, 1888.

Contains a list of bills referred to the committee, with statement of the action taken and a list of the Senators who introduced the bills.

Senate Committee on Affairs of Cities, 1889.

Minutes of insurance committee, 1892.

Various other matters of slight historical importance it has not been thought worth while to catalogue here.

The above description and list comprises all the manuscripts in the State library which relate properly to the affairs of the State. That collection also includes, however, a considerable body of miscellaneous material. This is here classified as follows:

A. Manuscripts miscellaneous—a distinct collection.

B. Local, i. e., concerning localities within the State of New York.

C. General, i. e., relating to localities outside of the State of New York.

#### A.—MISCELLANEOUS MANUSCRIPTS.

The following group is entitled "Manuscripts, miscellaneous." It appears to contain some things of interest, but, with the possible exception of volumes 5-8, nothing of great value has been found. These manuscripts are contained in 12 folio volumes. Volumes 1-6 are indexed and calendared.

Vol. 1, briefly indexed.

Contents extremely miscellaneous and of various dates. Dates 1757-1860. 16 manuscripts.

Vol. 2, index of contents.

Contains among other things an inventory of sundries provided for President George Washington, 1790; also list of articles consumed in the family of the President, 1790. There is also what might have been an annual budget of the Washington family. Dates in this volume run from 1736 to 1861. Contents very miscellaneous. 26 manuscripts.

Vol. 3, alphabetical index of names.

Very miscellaneous as to dates and contents. 80 manuscripts.

Vol. 4, alphabetical index of names.

Very miscellaneous as to dates and contents. 165 manuscripts.

Vol. 5, index. Marked "P. R. Livingston. Commissioned Letters, 1730-1737."

Vol. 6, index. Marked "Boston Merchant's Letters, 1733-1737."

Vols. 7 and 8, no index. Marked "Great Britain." American Colonial Army papers. Vol. 7, 1752-1777; vol. 8, 1777-1807.

Vols. 9 and 10, indexed. Autograph letters. Vol. 9, American officials; vol. 10, American authors.

Vol. 11, brief index of names. Collection of French manuscripts, 1567-1808.

Vol. 12, brief index of names.

Miscellaneous character, mostly of the last quarter of eighteenth century. 13 manuscripts.

### Other miscellaneous papers are—

Index to certain papers relating to boundaries, etc.

A memorandum by H. Stevens of papers kept in various other places—Vermont Historical and Antiquarian Society, secretary of state's office, Boston, Mass., etc.

A number of parchment confirmations by the King in council of acts passed by the New York assembly, of various dates from 1706 to 1773, some with seals unbroken.

Bundle of loose papers in covers of an old volume labeled on back "Dutch Records, 1552-53."

The papers are of the most miscellaneous character and of indifferent value. There is a bill against George Clarke, dated 1733; a map of Rensselaerwyck reduced from the ancient parchment map; scraps of information copied from historical works; notes, drafts, etc., usually of the eighteenth century.

Bundle of papers inclosed between covers of an old volume.

Contains many valuable fragments and documents. Among others are De Witt Clinton's signed oath of office of governor of New York, January, 1727; various petitions to the governors and the legislature of New York; a deposition of Philip Heyn regarding the Delaware River, west branch, with other affidavits on the same subject; copy of minutes of a council meeting at Fort George, N. Y., May 8, 1772; report of council regarding the New Jersey boundary; lists of signed oaths taken before the masters in chancery to support the Constitution of the United States, etc.

Account book of a New York merchant, 1721-1755.

Same, April 1, 1721-Oct. 5, 1763.

### B.—LOCAL MANUSCRIPTS.

An Albany merchant's ledger, 1722-1742.

Minutes of mayor's court, Albany, 1736-37. Thin folio.

Great Britain. Costumes of the forces in 1742. Presented to General Washington in 1787 by Robert Edge Pine.

Van Rensselaer account book, 1743-1781.

Court records, Ulster county. 1744-63. 1 small 8vo. vol.

Account book of brigantine *William*, 1745-1746.

A shipmaster's account book.

Account book for sundry articles used on board ship, port of New York, 1745-58.

"Map of New York City. 1749." Folio volume.

Contains maps of pieces of land, surveyed mostly by Francis Maersehalk, city surveyor. The maps are dated at different times between 1749 and 1754, one being a copy of a map made Sept. 14, 1696.

Albany merchant's ledger, 1760-80.

Merchant's blotter, 1766.

Chancery bill, Wynkoop *vs.* Horn. Directed to Governor Tryon.

Inhabitants and heads of families in Suffolk County, April 17, 1771.

Thin folio volume, 8 pp.

Account book of a merchant, 1774-75.

Tax book for Dutchess County, 1779.

Copy of assessment rolls of the freeholders and inhabitants of Dutchess County, made in pursuance of an act of the legislature of this State of New York, entitled "An act for raising monies by tax," passed the 27th day of April, 1786.

Ledger, Union College, 1795-1852. 2 vols.

Albany, Rensselaer, etc., school accounts, 1796-1807.

Albany Mechanics Society, members' names and special act of the legislature dissolving the society, 1786-1826. Thin folio vol.

Albany County accounts, 1798-1801. Thin folio vol.

Aaron Burr's receipt book.

Receipts for money paid by Burr for a great variety of services and articles. One volume, about 80 leaves, 4 x 7 inches, July 12, 1812, to August 1, 1820. All receipts (except when signed by "his mark") are written and signed by the payee.

Transactions of the Medical and Surgical Society of the City of Albany, 1813. 1 small vol.

Schenectady. Retailers' applications for licenses to retail liquors, wines, merchandise, etc., 1813-1816.

Census of the city of Albany, 1814. 1 small 8vo. vol.

Albany carriage licenses, 1814-1816.

Albany County. Duties on licenses, 1814-1817. 3 vols.

Albany carriages. Entries of values for taxing purposes, 1815. 1 small vol.

Albany County manufacturers' bonds, 1815.

Schenectady. Duties, 1815. Thin folio vol.

James Boyd's district. List of duties payable for the year 1815 on household furniture and on gold and silver watches, under the act of the 18th day of January, 1815, within the thirteenth collection district of the State of New York.

Log book of Eli Pierson Halsey, of Southampton, L. I., in two whaling voyages from Sag Harbor, 1819-1822.

Diary of Rev. Jacob Crane, 1825-1831.

Garrettson Station M. E. Church. Names of presiding elder, pastor, leader, and members, 1848.

Copy of records, Liber A, No. 1, of Southampton, L. I., with other documents. Index.

Abstracts of records of Riverhead, L. I. Liber 2.

- Certificates of locations. 1 thin folio. Apparently an index.  
 Tax roll of Albany County. Undated.  
 A number of maps of various sections of the State.  
 Copy of a list of interest certificates.  
 A list of the patents in Westchester County, giving names of patentees and persons in possession.  
 List of certificates for deferred debt issued out of the office of the commissioner of loans for the State of New York on account of the funded debt of the said State.  
 Index to soldiers' names, surveyor-general's office.

Fly leaf has note: "Names of the soldiers who served for the classes, as certified by the muster master."

- Small bundle of papers marked "Military accounts."  
 Index to a book of accounts with Union College. No date. Thin folio vol.  
 New York boundary, Chautauqua County.  
 Levy certificates issued. No dates. Thin folio.  
 Levy notes issued. List. No dates. Book F. F.  
 Papers relating to the sale of certain lands of the Macomb purchase in New York to Peter Chassanis, of Paris. Thin folio.  
 Diary and account book of Jedidiah Sangar, surveyor of Herkimer and Oneida counties.  
 History of Kanadasaga and Geneva, by George S. Conover. 983 pp., folio.  
 Rev. Dr. Westerlo's manuscripts. 9 vols. All in Dutch and Latin.  
 Bulletin, p. 210.

Mythology of the Iroquois, or Six Nations of Indians. A true copy of the original manuscript account by Hon. James Dean, sr., of Westmoreland, Oneida County, N. Y. 13 pp.

C.—MANUSCRIPTS RELATING TO MATTERS OUTSIDE THE STATE.

- Stafford County, Va., court records, 1664-1668, 1669-1693. 1 vol., folio. 381 pp. Indexed.  
 Town papers of Dover, N. H., 1693-1783. 1 vol.  
 Diary of Samuel Buel while a student at Yale College.  
 ✓ Proceedings regarding the boundary line between Massachusetts and Rhode Island, 1741-1742.  
 Original minutes of the South Carolina navy board, 1776-80.  
 South Carolina naval pay book, 1778-79. Thin folio.  
 Copy of muster rolls of Col. Elisha Sheldon's regiment of Connecticut light dragoons, 1777-82.  
 A complete set of autograph letters and autographs of the signers of the Declaration of Independence. Tuft's coll. 1 vol., quarto.  
 Bulletin, p. 213.

- The Stevens papers. 283 vols.  
 Vol. 1, Ethan Allen papers.  
 Vols. 2-11, Heman Allen papers.

## The Stevens papers—Continued.

Vols. 12-18, Ira Allen papers.

Vol. 19, Levi Allen papers.

Vols. 20-29, Burlington custom-house papers.

Vols. 30-99, Follett papers.

The letters in volumes 1-54 have been indexed in a separate volume.

Vols. 100-113½, Hubbard papers.

Vols. 114-136, Hyde papers.

Vols. 137-149, Jenison papers.

On Canada rebellion of 1839-40.

Vols. 150-160, Military papers.

These include three volumes of muster rolls of various regiments of the United States Regular Army and volunteers in the war of 1812, and muster rolls and official accounts of Vermont militia, 1812-1814.

Vols. 161-232, Miscellaneous papers.

Vol. 233, B. Robinson's journal.

Vol. 234, Schuyler letters, etc.

Vols. 235-237, Sheldon papers.

Vol. 238, Steamboats and railroads.

Vols. 239-247, Tichenor papers.

Vol. 248, Vermont surveyor-general. Index to vols. 1-24.

Vol. 248½, Minutes of town lines.

Vols. 249-272, Vermont towns.

Vols. 273-275, Wheeler papers.

Vols. 276-279, P. White papers.

Vol. 280, Wool papers.

On Canada rebellion, 1839-40.

Vol. 281, Vermont surveyor-general's field book.

Bulletin, p. 214.

United States Navy journals of John S. Barnes while on board the United States vessels *San Jacinto*, *Saratoga*, and *Arctic*, 1854-56. 1 vol., folio.

Treasury of Confederate States. Calendar of letters, 1862-1863. 1 vol., folio.

Muster roll of Capt. J. T. Bradford's company, First Massachusetts Regiment, 1862.

Miscellaneous files.

Volumes numbered 2, 3, and 4. Each indexed in front. Contents relate to many events and characters in New York history in the nineteenth century.

Collection of portraits of Christopher Columbus.

Copy of Washington's "First draft of his farewell address" and of his "Estimate of his generals." The original is in the show case in the Law library.

Boundary papers. Original parchments in file case.

Patents. Original parchments in file case.

There is also in the State library a collection of about 1,550 pages of French manuscripts, mainly relating to d'Iberville's voyages to the mouth of the Mississippi and to the war of the Revolution. They consist of a series of documents, numbered 1-80, copied for the New York State library from the Bibliothèque Nationale and the Archives Nationales at Paris.

The following is a résumé of the contents of the collection:

Memoir by Peñalosa relating to Quivira [before 1687]; De Beuchesne's journal of his voyage to Valdivia, with two anonymous journals of the same voyage, 1698; 2 abstracts of memoirs relating to the expedition to Cartagena under De Paintis, 1697; Penicaut's journal, 1699-1722 (printed in Margry, vol. 5, pp. 375-586); 16 letters and accounts of d'Iberville's voyages to the Mississippi, 1698-1700 (four printed in Margry); Bénard de la Harpe's journal, 1718-22 (the greater part in Margry, vol. 6); Récit de l'abbé de Gallinée, 1678 (Margry, vol. 1, pp. 345-401); relation of Rev. M. A. Gaulin of his mission among the Mikmaks, 1718 (Canada Français, 1881, vol. 1, doc. inédits, pp. 190-193, contains substantially the same information); memorial of Rev. Robé regarding boundaries of Acadia, 1720; letter from François Le Maire to the royal council, complaining about the Jesuits in Louisiana [after 1722]; account of the encounter of the *Alcide*, the *Lys*, and the *Dauphin* with the English fleet under Boscawen, 1755 (varying from that in Gentl. Mag., vol. 25, pp. 330-331); journal of Paul Jones, 1775-87 (printed as "Mémoires de Paul Jones," Paris, 1798); journal of the operations of the squadron under Comte d'Estaing, 1778-79; letter from George Washington to John Hancock, Oct. 8, 1775; Washington's report to Congress, Sept. 11, 1777 (Sparks, vol. 5, pp. 57-59); letter to Count de Grasse, Sept. 25, 1781 (Sparks, vol. 8, pp. 163-67); letter transmitting the proposed Constitution of the United States, Sept. 17, 1787, with text (Journal of Amer. Congress, vol. 4, pp. 776-782); letter from Lafayette to [De Broglie?], Oct. 23, 1777; 13 letters from De Kalb to De Broglie, Gérard, H. Laurens, De Mauray and Du Bois martin (6 in B. F. Stevens's "Facsimiles"); a memoir and 4 letters from Vicomte de Mauray to De Broglie; 5 letters to De Broglie from De Rafelès Brove, De Béville, De Lameth, and Fleury; 2 memoirs, without dates, addressed to B. Franklin and John Adams, on the part of Philippe Wallez, of Ghent, proposing direct trade between Flanders and the United States; treaty of amity and commerce, Feb. 6, 1778 (see Winsor's Narr. and Crit. Hist., vol. 7, pp. 45); journal of voyage to the United States by a French citizen (Harvard Bibl. Contributions, No. 22, Calendar of Sparks's Manuscripts, p. 81, No. 94); journal of Victor Claude de Broglie's voyage to the United States, 1782-83; 2 memorials by De Ricard on the political and military situation of France and England before the Revolution, and commercial

relations between France and the United States, 1776-78; letters credentials to Robert R. Livingston and James Monroe, Jan. 3, 1803, together with various anonymous documents containing brief geographical descriptions of colonies in North and South America, summaries of early voyages and discoveries, recommendations for extending the trade of France, accounts of ceremonies observed at Te Deums in Notre Dame after the victories of Montcalm, 1758, and De Grasse, 1781.

PAPERS IN THE OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE.

Coming to the state departments which have the custody of records, the first place belongs to the office of the secretary of state and the land office, the two being combined. The following account of these collections draws largely from a "Catalogue of records in the office of secretary of state," published in 1898, but not generally accessible in libraries. This office was the original and for a long time by far the most important depository of the records of the province and State. In recent years the tendency has been to transfer many of its treasures to the State library, and, as we have seen, many of the most valuable manuscript series which the State library possesses have come to it from the secretary's office. As yet, however, it can scarcely be said that those papers are either safer or more accessible than they might have been if left where they originally were. Under the idea also that the State library should possess the older records—those of the provincial and Revolutionary periods—some important series have unfortunately been divided, the earlier volumes being removed to the State library and the later ones retained in the office of the secretary of state. This is notably true of the records of commissions, of the series of Indian deeds and treaties, and of the minutes of the council of appointment. It is also to be noted that the translations of three volumes of Dutch patents (1630-1674) remain with the secretary of state, while the originals have been removed to the State library.

In the office of the secretary of state will be found—

The originals of the constitutions of the State, 1821, 1846, 1894, and the draft of the constitution of 1867-68, which was rejected at the polls.

The original returns of the censuses of 1825, 1835, and 1855. (Names not given.)

Indian census of 1845. (Names not given.)

Since 1845 it has been the custom to deposit the original census returns in the State library on the completion of the compilation of the same by the secretary of state.



Original Colonial Laws, 1664-1775, books 1 to 19, inclusive.

The entries in the first volume consist largely of ordinances issued by the governor, or the governor and council, before the calling of the first assemblies. The statutes in these books have now been printed in the series of "Colonial Laws of New York," compiled by the statutory revision commission (Albany, 1894).

Original State Laws.

Books 20 to 31, inclusive, contain the acts of the first 21 sessions of the State legislature, 1778-1801.

A series of more than 160 books, containing the laws passed from 1802 to the present time.

The records of the council of revision, in 5 minute books of about 400 pp. each, ledger size.

Book No. 1, 1778 to 1785.

Book No. 2, 1786 to 1797.

Book No. 3, 1798 to 1806.

Book No. 4, 1806 to 1814.

Book No. 5, 1815 to 1819.

Records of commissions. 38 vols.

Of these, volumes 1-5 have already been referred to as in the State library. Volume 6 begins with 1770 and includes some of the earliest commissions issued under the seal of the State. The remaining volumes of this series contain commissions issued to a great variety of officials and for many different purposes and cover the period between the establishment of the State government and the year 1822.

Records of commissions issued by the governor, 1823-1898. 14 vols.

Records of commissions issued by the governor and senate, 1823-1898. 28 vols.

Executive orders for commissions, 1840-1896. 19 vols.

Appointments by the governor and senate, 1823-1897. 20 vols.

Abstracts of appointments: Civil appointments, 1804-1878, 6 vols.; State officers and notaries, 1873-1898, 19 vols.

Records of supersedeas, 1813-1856. 3 vols.

Minutes of the council of appointment. 14 vols., ledger size, of from 300 to 400 pp. each.

Vol. 1, 1777-1786, is in the State library; the others, covering the period 1788-1822, remain with the secretary of state. These volumes are filled with brief entries of appointments, civil and military, made by the council during its existence as a part of the machinery of the State government.

Record of pardons, 1799-1898. 10 vols.

Record of commutations and respites, 1854-1878. 1 vol.

Record of restoration to citizenship, 1869-1898. 5 vols.

Executive orders for pardons, etc., 1845-1898. 20 vols.

Certificates of election, 1799-1827. 3 vols.

Certificates of nominations, 1890-1898. In packages.

Electoral college papers, 1792-1894. 3 vols.

Notices of election (copies), 1850 to date. In packages.

Official canvass, 1802-1898. In packages.

Statements of county canvassers, 1802-1898. In packages.

Record of official canvass, 1822-1898. 7 vols.

Record of nominations, 1890-1898. 1 vol.

Statements by candidates of election expenses.

Before 1799 certificates of election and entries of that nature were recorded in books of deeds.

In the office are also a considerable quantity and variety of miscellaneous records, in both books and packages. Among these are alien depositions and records thereof, 107 volumes; apportionment of assembly districts, civil service rules, naturalization returns, records of changes of names, oaths of office, 14 volumes; proclamations by governors, erection of towns and changes of their names or boundaries, notices of incorporation of villages, vital statistics (without names), original transcripts of convictions and sentences, judgments, transcripts and decrees docketed in New York, 26 volumes; rules of court of appeals, court terms, fees of county clerks, designations of judges, etc. Many of these records run back for half a century, some for a longer time.

The following records of lands are preserved in the office of the secretary of state:

Letters patent of lands. 51 vols.

Volumes 1-41 contain patents issued from 1664-1872; the remaining volumes contain water grants and quit claims. Volume 1 contains, besides patents, the charter issued by Charles II to the Duke of York, the Duke's commission to Governor Nicolls, and a few civil and military commissions issued by Governor Nicolls. Some charters of corporations also appear in the earlier volumes.

Abstracts of patents, 1677-1847. 13 vols.

These are abstracts of patents in volumes 1-35, *supra*.

Abstract of patents in the military tract. 2 vols.

Vol. 1, 1764-1775; vol. 2, 1790-1797.

Original letters patent, engrossed in books of letters patent, 1664-1786, with a volume of military patents, 1766-1774.

These are original books engrossed under an act of February 23, 1786.

Translations of Dutch patents, 1630-1674. 3 vols., with an index volume of Dutch patents, 1630-1661.

Military patents granted for military service, 1764-1797. 8 vols.

Deeds, including mortgages and releases to the State, 1641 to date. 43 vols.

These books also contain many miscellaneous records, as commissions, Indian purchases, wills, etc.

State mortgages, 1807 to date. 3 vols.

Releases to the State, 1787-1887. 8 vols.

Records of original releases. 3 vols.

Indian deeds and treaties.

Vol. 1, 1692-1714 (in State library).

Vol. 2, 1712-1810.

Vol. 3, 1811-1813.

Original Indian treaties and other papers, 1807-1830. 1 vol.

Original Indian treaties and other papers, 1842-1845. 1 vol.

Several Indian deeds are also recorded in the books of letters patent.

Land papers, colonial and State, 1642-1803. 63 vols.

Besides these there are 260 boxes containing land papers, 1801-1897. These papers are the original documents and maps, on the authority of which land has been granted from 1642 to the present time.

Proceedings of the land office and miscellaneous papers. Land office minutes, 1784 to date. 21 vols.

The miscellaneous papers are not very numerous; a list of them will be found in the "Catalogue of records in the office of secretary of state," p. 126.

Maps and field books.

Of these the office has a large collection, a list of which will be found in the "Catalogue," pp. 32-123.

Corporation records. A large body of corporation records are also preserved in the secretary's office, among them the following:

Annual reports of corporations. 79 vols.

Papers and reports of benevolent, charitable, and other societies. 55 vols.

Papers relating to business corporations. 76 vols.

Cooperative insurance companies. 4 vols.

Corporations for the erection of buildings, etc. 4 vols.

Ferry companies. 4 vols.

Dissolution of corporations. 3 vols.

Foreign corporations. 47 vols.

Manufacturing, mining, and other corporations. 133 vols.

Railroad corporations. 29 vols.

Gaslight companies. 6 vols.

Telegraph and telephone companies. 7 vols.

Of record books of corporations there are the following:

Manufacturing corporations. 37 vols.

Transportation companies. 4 vols.

Business corporations, act of 1875. 15 vols.

Business corporations. 39 vols.

Benevolent and missionary societies. 42 vols.

Railroad corporations. 19 vols.

## EXECUTIVE CHAMBER.

The office of the secretary of state has always been and still is the office of record of the governor. This arises from the fact that the secretary is the keeper of the great seal. Still, several series of books have been kept in the executive chamber for reference in that office, and some files of papers are to be found there. These relate to appointments, pardons, and a variety of executive acts. A journal is also kept of the daily business of the office, the series beginning in 1859 and the record filling one large ledger each year to the present time. The final official record, however, of all the executive business done which passes under the great seal is deposited in the office of the secretary of state. The record of whatever is done under the privy seal, on the contrary, will not be found in the secretary's office, but is entered in the journals kept in the executive chamber, acts under the privy seal being attested by the private secretary of the governor.

## OFFICE OF THE COMPTROLLER.

The records containing the financial history of the State will be found mainly in the office of the comptroller. To some of them it will be necessary to refer in the sections on the State treasurer and on the canal commissioners. A complete record of the receipts of the State, and vouchers for all payments made by it, with the exception of money paid from the free-school fund, are kept in the comptroller's office. Files of warrants and vouchers exist in this office from 1797 to the present time. There also is a record of all bonds issued by the State. The comptroller is the officer authorized to invest the trust funds of the State, including the canal debt sinking fund, and these securities are and always have been in his custody. All fidelity bonds, and bonds of contractors with the State for the faithful performance of their contracts, are filed in this office, unless otherwise provided by law. A record of all State taxes levied upon counties is kept there, and reports of valuations and taxes are annually filed there by the clerks of the boards of supervisors throughout the State. The findings of the State board of equalization, entered upon sheets, were filed in the

office from the creation of that board in 1859. The board consisted of the State assessors and the commissioners of the land office. The State assessors, after the report on equalization was prepared, met each year and adopted it. County treasurers' sales books and comptrollers' sales books since 1853 are preserved here, as also assessment rolls, diaries, and tax books in large numbers. In the office is also a series of 15 ledgers, extending, with one interruption, from June 1, 1775, to the present time. During the period covered by the first ledger (June, 1775-September, 1793) the office was known as the auditor's office. A break appears from September, 1793, to May, 1797; then administration was begun under the comptroller, and the series, lettered A, B, C, etc., continues unbroken to the present time.

In the tax department, which is a bureau of the comptroller's office, are kept the tax diaries, the annual tax books, the record of rejected taxes, the accounts of taxes on State lands, the record of the cancellation of tax sales and taxes, lists of State lands, county treasurers' tax sales, etc. The tax diaries are journals of tax payments in the form of copies of tax receipts given by the office. Entries are strictly chronological. These books average 500 pages to a volume, and about three of them are now filled each year. An unbroken series of them exists since 1798 or 1799, in all between 175 and 200 volumes. The annual tax books are made up from returns by county treasurers of unpaid taxes. Transcripts of these returns which are found to be correct (called admitted taxes) are entered in these books, the entries being alphabetical and by counties. As payments are made the fact is posted from the diaries into the annual tax books. These books average 900 pages to a volume, and the series runs back to 1799, there being about 105 volumes in all. The record of rejected taxes contains transcripts of taxes reported by the county treasurers, but found not to be correct. The arrangement of these books is the same as that of the annual tax books. The series also runs back to the same date, the earlier volumes containing about 300 pages to a volume, the later 500 pages each.

The accounts of taxes on State lands begin in 1886 and continue to the present time, one volume for each year.

These contain returns of assessments on State lands, there being admitted and rejected lists, as in the annual tax books. Copies of the assessment rolls for these lands are also filed here by the assessors of each town on the State reserves. The record of the cancellation of tax sales or taxes, in cases where they prove to be void, extends back to 1798 or 1799, the volumes containing about 700 pages each.

There are in the office two series of lists of State lands:— (1) In forest preserve counties; (2) outside forest preserve counties. These contain a record, arranged by counties, of all lands known to belong to the State. Only two volumes of these, containing about 600 pages each, are now in use.

A volume of 500 pages, entitled "County treasurer's tax sales," contains a record of lands bid in for the State at such sales. Since 1873 a record of deeds given in this office from tax sales has been kept, filling 7 books of 700 pages each. Before 1873 the only record of these transactions was the fact of conveyance entered in the tax sales books. Tax sales began in 1811, and are held at intervals of about five years. For use in the office, as the time for such sales approaches, printed lists of their dates are issued. A special deed book (600 pages) contains a record of sales and of deeds given under special acts of the legislature ordering sales of specified tracts. Certificates of tax sales are all kept on file, and thousands of them result from each sale. A series of 3 books (about 300 pages each) contains notices to occupants of lands sold for taxes. One book contains notices to mortgagees and another notices from mortgagees of lands sold for taxes. Records of cancellation of taxes are kept on file, as are cases of redemption of taxes. Seven fee books are in the office.

In the tax office also are three very large ledgers filled with records of 1,152 patents, granted at various times during the provincial period, subject to the payment of quitrent. The names of the grantees, the names, bounds, and location of each patent, and the quitrent to which it was subject, are given. The names of those to whom subgrants or sales had been made in each large estate, the size of such grants, the dates of the same and the sums paid for them, are also recorded, together with the fact and date of redemption. This is the status of all such estates which were in existence

in the Commonwealth when these books were made up—i. e., not far from 1820. There is a small index volume to these books. There is also another large ledger, entitled "Original draught quitrent book, 1820," which contains a résumé of most of the material in the three large ledgers. The material tabulated in these ledgers was probably obtained from the patents and deeds in the office of the secretary of state. Certain smaller books here are filled with printed blanks for the payment of arrears of quitrents, with entries of payments filled out. These entries run from January 9, 1813, to June 14, 1820. The full arrears are given, also the commutation and the sum paid—i. e., the arrears minus the commutation. A record book of commutations from October 13, 1815, to June 17, 1816, differs from the above in that it records the payment of lump sums in lieu of all future quitrents. Another book contains a record of remission of quitrents, pursuant to the act of April 12, 1813. The entries in this begin July 1, 1814, and close May 25, 1820.

These volumes, together with the material relating to quitrents among the manuscripts in the State library and in the office of the State engineer, would seem to be sufficient to illustrate this phase of the subject.

Two large volumes of records of the road and marsh tax, in the early years of the nineteenth century, also in the tax office, throw light on the history of the highways in the State.

In the corporation tax bureau, also connected with the comptroller's office, are filed since 1880 annual reports from all corporations in the State. It is from these reports that a decision is reached as to whether or not a corporation shall be taxed. About 80,000 corporations, existent and extinct, have reported, of which number 6,180 now pay taxes. All the documents on which the decisions of the comptrollers in the case of each corporation is based are kept on file—i. e., the correspondence between the office and the company, the testimony taken, and the decision of the comptroller. Over 6,000 files of these papers have accumulated. The system of bookkeeping required in this bureau is very elaborate.

The bureau of charitable institutions contains records, both general and detailed, pertaining to the State charitable and reformatory institutions, other than State prisons and

hospitals. The reason for this is that estimates for the expenses of these institutions are audited and allowed here.

The records of the inheritance tax bureau are also in one of the branches of this office.

The last body of records in the comptroller's office which calls for mention is the manuscripts of the colony and State of New York in the Revolutionary War. These were discovered about six years ago, "promiscuously scattered through great masses of old vouchers and files." Enough of them to fill 29 large volumes have already been arranged and mounted, and many more are still unassorted. From them Hon. James A. Roberts, then comptroller of the State, caused to be compiled the volume entitled "New York in the Revolution," a first edition of which was published in 1897, and a second and enlarged edition in 1898. This volume contains the muster rolls, so far as the names have been recovered, of the New York regiments and other organizations which served on land and sea during the Revolution. On page 274 of this volume (second edition) will be found a brief descriptive catalogue of the papers which have been arranged, and an indication of the contents of the rest. Besides muster rolls, the papers contain lists of men entitled to land bounties; lists of pensioners and applications for pensions; accounts and proceedings of the departments of the State government during the Revolution; lists of delegates to the provincial congresses, with their committees and transactions; minutes of the committee of safety and of the council of safety; officers and members of the senate and assembly; various accounts and transactions of the governor, secretary of state, treasurer, auditor-general, loan office, State agents, and their assistants; proceedings of county committees, committees for detecting and defeating conspiracies, of commissioners of sequestration of forfeited estates; statements of forfeitures of the property of loyalists, arranged by counties; minutes of commissioners having charge of British prisoners, and records relating to ships, military roads, fortifications, and military stores of all kinds.

OFFICE OF THE STATE ENGINEER AND SURVEYOR.

The office of the State engineer and surveyor has inherited the records of the surveyors-general of the eighteenth cen-



tury. There will be found a large mass of papers relating to surveys of land in all parts of the State, from the beginning of the eighteenth century until, approximately, the present time, including warrants of surveys, returns of surveys, vouchers, correspondence, etc. Until a few years ago these papers were stored away in bundles without satisfactory order or arrangement. Of late, about half of them have been mounted in books, each book being provided with an index of names. Up to the time when this report was prepared about 23 large volumes had been filled in this way, and it is estimated that the papers will ultimately fill more than 50 volumes. But in doing this work no effort has been made to arrange the papers in any satisfactory order, but they have been placed in the volumes in the same succession which they occupied in the bundles. The result is great confusion, which must always perplex the investigator, and which can never be fully remedied by any index or calendar. The volumes are also overerowed with documents.

A series of original sales books, containing entries of sales of State lands, from 1792 to the present time, is also in this office. The sales here recorded are distinct from tax sales, and are made by the State engineer under resolutions of the land commissioners, and on application of the owner or would-be purchaser.

One case is filled with a collection of about 540 maps and plans. Among these are the oldest maps in the office. None of them have been published, but the Mix catalogue of maps and surveys contains a list of those in existence prior to 1859.

There are in this office large collections of field books of surveys. In one case are 48 of these books, from which were prepared some of the maps referred to above. In another case are more than 2,000 field books of the canal surveys of the State. Here are also about 2,100 roll maps of the canals and their surveys, together with many portfolios of maps made from the canal surveys.

Another collection of great interest, bought by the department some years ago, contains 664 field books of the Holland Land Company. These are packed in tin boxes, 20 books in each box, and numbered consecutively. Included in this

collection also are 23 volumes of account books of the company, 41 volumes of transcripts of its deeds granted to purchasers, 4 volumes of maps and charts, and 1 volume of a survey for a ship canal from Tonawanda to Lockport.

In the office of the eastern division of the Erie and Champlain canals (also in State Hall) are all the special engineering records of that division. The same is true of the respective divisions at the office of the middle division (Syracuse) and of the western division (Rochester). All data (maps, surveys, etc.) kept in the division offices are filed in duplicate in the office of the State engineer.

For the maps in this office, as well as in the secretary's office and the State library, reference is made to the "Catalogue of maps and surveys," printed by order of the assembly in 1851.

#### OFFICE OF THE STATE TREASURER.

The records of the State treasurer's office go back to 1776. From 1776 to 1846 treasurers were appointed; since the latter date they have been elected. Records of the personnel of the office have been kept from the beginning. The regular account books of the office are the daybooks and the journals. Of the daybooks, one is designated the "receipt book" and the other the "payment book." In the "receipt book" a daily record is kept of all moneys paid into the treasury. The fiscal year runs from October 1 to September 30, inclusive, and one volume of 560 pages is used each year. In the "payment book" a daily record is kept of all moneys paid out of the treasury. As this is kept in duplicate, about 1,300 pages are filled with entries each year. The journals are used in summarizing the debits and credits of each fiscal year. The credit side of the account requires one volume of 250 pages, and the debit side two volumes of 250 pages each annually. From these journals postings are made to a general ledger, each volume of which contains 500 pages. These books are all kept with two main objects in view—the one to record and prove the correctness of the cash and fund accounts of the State; the other to comply with the law in making the annual report of the office to the legislature. The accounts, both in this and in

the comptroller's office, are kept so as to be a check and safeguard on each other. For instance, receipts are issued for all moneys paid into the treasury, and these receipts are countersigned and entered in the books of the comptroller's office. All moneys paid out of the treasury are upon warrants signed by the comptroller as authorized by appropriations made by the legislature. Checks signed by the treasurer are issued in payment of such warrants, which checks are required by law to be countersigned and entered by the comptroller. Thus the treasurer receives and pays all moneys, but the comptroller possesses the evidence of such receipts and payments. The difference between the receipts and payments is the balance in the treasurer's custody and is accounted for weekly. All warrants drawn on the treasurer are properly indorsed and compared with checks as they come back from the banks, and each month are filed in cases. The returned checks are compared with check stubs, sorted by numbers, and kept on file. The warrants are the authority of the officer for the payments made, and the indorsements upon the checks are proofs of payment.

Many side books are kept for the purpose of properly distributing and arranging the various subjects alphabetically and by counties, both as a ready reference and for convenience in making up the annual reports. Further, in addition to the books named, a journal and ledger are kept by the cashier, containing entries of deposits in banks and showing balances in their possession.

#### BOARD OF CANAL COMMISSIONERS.

The board of canal commissioners was created by laws of 1816 and 1817. At the same time the canal fund was established and the commissioners of that fund created. Under many changes of the law the board of canal commissioners, or canal board, has continued to the present day. Its members are the lieutenant-governor, secretary of state, comptroller, treasurer, attorney-general, engineer and surveyor, and superintendent of public works. The board of commissioners of the canal fund, with which it is closely connected, consists of the above officials, except the engineer and superintendent. The canal board has general administrative con-

trol over all of the canals of the State and over land taken for canal purposes, with power to grant permission for the erection of buildings for industrial or commercial purposes on canal property. Its jurisdiction in some detail may be found in the canal law, sections 10 and 11 (Revised Stat., ed. 1896, p. 335). The office of the board is in State Hall, Albany. There and in its record room (in the same building) are the minute books of the board from 1826 to the present time. In the office of the superintendent of public works are engrossed minute books of the canal commissioners, in 6 volumes, from April, 1817, to January, 1878. But from this set the minutes from June 10, 1822, to January 7, 1828, are missing. The records in the office of the board in State Hall are in the form of rough minutes, though copies of a few of the earlier volumes have been made. Under provision of an act of 1894 the minutes are now being printed in the State paper. Reports of the canal board appear in print in both senate and assembly documents as early as 1830, and perhaps earlier.<sup>1</sup> Rough minutes of the commissioners of the canal fund in the office begin in 1827 and are continued to the present time, in 10 volumes. Here also are abstracts of expenditures of the superintendent of public works from the creation of that office in 1878 to the present time, in 7 volumes, large ledger size, and records of liens and chattel mortgages on canal boats, kept in a series of books (7 registers and 7 indexes) from 1858 to date. Files of claims for and awards of damages on the canals (with indexes) are kept here running back to the beginning of the canal system in 1817. The same is the case with vouchers for expenditures on the canals. The awards of claims filed here are certified copies of documents which are preserved in the office of the board of claims. Many series of ledgers, journals, and other books of financial record are kept here, and of these many long series, together with very voluminous files of papers, are stored in the record room of the board. Files of vouchers in the record room go back to 1817. Here also are files of mortgages on canal boats.

In 1878, by virtue of an amendment to the constitution

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<sup>1</sup>See references to them in General Index to Legislative Documents of the State of New York, compiled by Charles R. Dayton, and printed by order of the legislature, ed. of 1891.

in 1876, the office of superintendent of public works was brought into existence, and to it was transferred the duties of the canal commissioners. The definitions of the powers of this officer, as they appear in successive acts, show that the actual management of work and employees on the canals, with the promulgation and execution of rules for navigation and maintenance, have been his duties from the outset. He has charge of the expenditure of all specific appropriations for canals. All contracts for work on the canals pass through his hands. He has the right to set apart land temporarily or permanently for the use of the canals. Besides his administration of the canals, he grants permits to persons who desire to use State lands for constructions other than for railroad and manufacturing purposes. Contracts also pass through his hands for all isolated pieces of public works, as harbor improvements on the lakes. The inspection of boilers and steam vessels on inland waters is also carried on in this office. The most important transactions of the office—contracts, cancellation of contracts, appointments to the more important offices in the canal service, resignations, removals, permits to occupy State lands, etc.—are recorded in the minutes of the superintendent of public works. These books, none of which are in print, are all indexed.

Among the files of the office are all contracts into which the department has entered, all bids for these contracts, all permits which have been issued, plans and specifications (including maps) for every piece of work undertaken, all bills for materials purchased, a complete record of tonnage on the canals, and a complete account of the doings and earnings of the canal force. When the archives of the State engineer, of the canal board, and of the office of the superintendent of public works shall be brought together, it will appear that a very complete record of the canal system of the State has been preserved.

#### OFFICE OF THE ADJUTANT-GENERAL.

The adjutant-general's office, where one might naturally expect to find all the military records of the State, contains very few of dates prior to the civil war. Such military records in Albany as relate to the colonial wars are among

the archives in the State library. The great body of Revolutionary records, as has already been stated, are in the custody of the comptroller.

In the adjutant-general's office are two ledgers entitled "Military index," one for the years 1803-1813, the other for the years 1810-1813. These contain brief records of appointments of officers in the militia, and may originally have been an index to that portion of the minutes of the council of appointment. From the disappearance of the council of appointment, in 1822, to 1831, there is no extant record of appointments. Six books known as "Registers of military officers" are here, which contain entries of appointments of officers, 1831-1846, but without reference to the regiment or other organization to which the officers belonged. Beginning with 1847 there is a register of officers arranged by organizations; this continues to the present time. This record has been for some years very detailed. For lists of privates it is necessary to depend on muster rolls; but of these no originals exist in the office prior to the civil war. So far as could be learned neither original nor copied rolls of the soldiers who served in the Revolution or in the Mexican war are there. Some copies of pay rolls of New York troops who served in the war of 1812 have been procured from Washington, but these are incomplete.

A series of books of general orders, beginning with December, 1801, and continuing to date, contain the orders issued to the militia from the office of the adjutant-general.

The records in the office of New York troops who served in the civil war and in the Spanish-American war are much more complete. Here are the muster-in rolls of the militia and volunteer regiments; also, with some exceptions, the muster-out rolls of the volunteer regiments, and about one-third of those of the militia regiments drafted into the service of the United States. Here, also, is the record of the payment of State bounties to New York men. Three bounty books contain a full record, arranged alphabetically, without reference to regiments, of the \$50 bounty. This was the first bounty paid, and was offered to men enlisting between specified dates in July and September, 1862. Nine bounty books contain the records of the \$75 bounty paid to

men who had enlisted by April 1, 1864. In this series, also, entries are arranged alphabetically, without reference to regiments; but another series is also here, which contains the entries relating to the \$75 bounty, arranged according to regiments.

There is also here a very complete list of enlistments between July and November, 1862, containing the names of the men and the regiments in which they enlisted. The list was compiled by the supervisors of the counties, reports from nearly all the counties in the State being included. The most noteworthy exceptions are New York County and part of Kings. In the fall of 1863 United States provost-marshals began the work of enlistment in the State and continued in charge of it till the close of the war. The records of their enlistments, arranged by Congressional districts, are also in the office. It is regarded as doubtful, however, if the names of all enlisted men are in these records. Many of the military rolls of towns are also here, but the records of service they contain are very incomplete. A series of 16 volumes, known as special-order books, contains the orders issued by the adjutant-general respecting the organization of volunteer companies during the civil war.

The office also has a collection of about 50,000 letters which it received during the civil war (from the beginning of 1861 to the close of 1866). An index has been prepared to all except those received in the early months of 1861.

The registers of New York troops in the war of the rebellion, now appearing in successive reports of the adjutant-general, are compiled from the records now in his office.

The muster-in and muster-out rolls of the New York volunteers who served in the Spanish-American war are preserved in complete form.

#### OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY-GENERAL.

The records in the office of the attorney-general are voluminous, and are soon to be rearranged, reindexed, and made more accessible than they are at present. Not less than 75,000 distinct files or bundles of papers, supposed to contain copies of all or nearly all papers connected with suits in which this department has borne a share since 1817,

are here preserved. The papers relate to sequestration proceedings, dissolution proceedings, voluntary dissolution proceedings, cases involving title to land, suits to enforce the payment of taxes against corporations, quo warranto proceedings, etc. The documents are indexed, at least in recent years, by the names of defendants, hence it is impossible to tell when the files of the various classes of proceedings begin, or how voluminous they may be. A large proportion also of the papers on file are copies, the originals in most cases being parts of the record of the courts where the cases were tried.

A series of registers has been kept in the office since 1817. This series, which is approximately complete, extends to about 30 volumes of ordinary ledger size, the larger volumes containing about 500 pages each. In the registers is entered a brief record of all suits to which the State has been a party. It would seem either that the attorneys-general rendered few opinions during the first half of the century, or else that the record of them is very incomplete, since 11 volumes contain all that have been engrossed previous to 1894. The earliest entries in volume 1 belong to the years between 1845 and 1850. Next appear a few opinions rendered between 1855 and 1867; then a part of the opinions between January, 1868, and April, 1871. Then comes a gap until January, 1878. From that date a fairly full entry of opinions appears. It seems evident that most of the opinions delivered prior to 1860 were not copied into these books; but possibly they may have been preserved among the files of the office. Since the beginning of 1889 all the opinions of any importance have been printed in the annual reports of the attorneys-general.

Information concerning the records of this office in the colonial period or during the early decades of the history of the State could not be obtained.

#### OFFICE OF THE CLERK OF THE COURT OF APPEALS.

In the office of the clerk of the court of appeals will be found a very important part of the judicial records of the State, all well arranged and accessible. These records fall into five classes:



(1) *Wills*.—Many of the wills originally in the custody of the State were long ago transferred to the office of the surrogate of the county of New York. An index record of these is contained in a ledger preserved in this office, entitled "A list of wills, receipts for wills, administration bonds, inventories, &c., relative to the southern district of the State of New York, heretofore filed in the probate office of the said State, delivered by the judge of probates thereof to the surrogate of the city and county of New York in pursuance of an act of the legislature passed the thirtieth day of March, 1799."<sup>1</sup> This list gives testators' names and residences and the dates of wills. The southern district included the counties from the northern border of Westchester southward and eastward, and the wills here cited (the record filling 220 pages) originated in these counties between the dates 1662 and 1787. The inventories, the list of which fills about 24 pages, were filed between the dates 1726 and 1786.

Another ledger, entitled "Index to wills," contains a list, alphabetically arranged, of about 1,660 wills now on file in this office. These wills fall approximately between the dates 1671 and 1800, and originated in all the counties which up to that time had been formed within the State. As shown by this index, there are also in this office copies of certain wills recorded in books, the originals of which are in the older counties of the State, in other Commonwealths, in the archives of the British North American provinces, and some even in the archives of England and France. With a few exceptions these wills bear dates subsequent to the beginning of the American Revolution and prior to 1825.

(2) *Chancery proceedings*.—(a) *Indexes*: A ledger preserved here contains entries, alphabetically arranged, of pleadings, etc., before the chancellor, beginning in 1701 (one or two pleadings of earlier date) and coming down to the close of 1799. The papers of the suits of which entry is made are on file in the office, and in the index the names of the parties to the suits are given, and reference is made

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<sup>1</sup> See New York Genealogical and Biographical Record, 1891, p. 145.

to the number of the file where the papers may be found. Many hundreds of cases are indexed in this volume. Another ledger is entitled "Index to enrolled decrees in chancery." This is an alphabetical index of the papers in suits decided between 1812 and 1847, the date of the abolition of the court of chancery. A few files earlier than 1812 appear. Papers in large numbers do not appear till 1820 or later. So far as the lists in this index show, it would seem that only a small part of the papers connected with suits which came before the court during the first two decades of the nineteenth century are here. There are also various index books to decrees and papers of the chancery circuits which are filed in this office. (b) The volumes known as "Chancery registers," or "Register's minutes," contain brief memoranda of cases heard before the chancellor and kept by the register of the court. These books, which are of large ledger size, begin in 1784 and continue to 1847. They number 70 volumes in all. Here also are voluminous series of clerks' minutes, containing a brief record of cases heard before the vice-chancellors in the different circuits. There are clerks' minutes of decrees, clerks' minutes of common orders, and clerks' minutes of causes.

(3) *Records of the supreme court of judicature.*—These include a complete set of the minutes of the supreme court of the State from 1797 to 1847, in 29 large volumes. There is also in the same case a large collection of docket books, rough minutes, etc., relating to the business of that court between the dates mentioned. The papers connected with the suits of that period are also on file here. The records of the supreme court since 1847 are not in this office, but must be sought in the counties where the sessions of the court have been held.

(4) *Records of the court of appeals.*—These fall between 1848, when the existence of the court began, and the present time. The records consist of files of returns, minutes of causes, order books, and decision books. The returns consist of printed and certified papers used in the court or courts below, together with a notice of appeal to the court of appeals. This record is bound in volumes in chronological order for reference. The notices of appeal, notices for argument, dates when argued, by whom argued, and the

judgments are briefly entered in the minutes of causes. On judgment being rendered in any case, the remittitur is attached to the return originally filed and transmitted to the attorney for the successful party. He files the same in the clerk's office of the proper court below, and on that remittitur the judgment of the court of appeals is made the judgment of the court below. On this judgment final process issues. The order books contain all interlocutory and final orders. The decision books contain the entries of the judgments.

(5) *Clerkships' certificates and law students' certificates* throughout the State are kept on file in this office. The former are papers filed with the clerk of the court of appeals by attorneys on behalf of all who are beginning the study of law by service as clerks in their respective offices. When the clerkship is completed, that fact also must be proven by papers filed in this office. Then the candidate has to submit to examination before the bar examiners, and the results are reported to this office, but the examination papers are destroyed by the bar examiners. On the record thus presented, if successful, to which, in the case of candidates from Brooklyn and New York City, must be added a guaranty of good character, the appellate division admits candidates as attorneys and counselors at law. The procedure in the case of graduates of colleges and law schools is shorter. The record of all admissions to the bar in the State is kept here in books entitled "Official register of attorneys and counselors at law in the State of New York." The system has been in full operation since 1895.

#### OTHER STATE OFFICES.

The material contained in the other State departments is more recent in origin, more uniform in character, and of less direct historic interest than that already reviewed. It has been accumulated as the result of the extension of the activity of the State in recent years and of the corresponding development and centralization of its administrative machinery. The departments to whose records reference is given below have all come into existence within half a century, and as a result of the growth of social and economic interests which has characterized that time. The records

they contain have at present more direct interest for the economist, the sociologist, and the student of education and administration than for the historian. The departments which fall under this head, with the dates or approximate dates of origin, are those of the superintendent of State prisons (1847), the bank department (1851), the superintendent of public instruction (1854), the insurance department (1859), the State board of charities (1867), the superintendent of public works (1878), the State board of health (1880), the railroad commissioners (1882), the board of claims (1883), the civil service commission (1883), the bureau of labor statistics (1883), the department of public buildings (1885), the forest commission (1885), continued as the fisheries, game, and forest commission (1895), the board of mediation and arbitration (1887), the factory inspector (1887), the State commission in lunacy (1889), the commissioner of agriculture (1893), the State tax commissioners (1896), the prison commission (1896), the forest preserve board (1897), and the excise department (1897). Connected with the State government are also many other minor boards and bureaus, which need not be mentioned here.

Information concerning the origin, history, and workings of these modern departments is to be found, first, in the session laws; the successive editions of the revised statutes, edited by Clarence F. Birdseye, and the reports of the departments themselves. All the departments make annual reports, either to the governor or to one of the houses of the legislature, and in recent years these have become exceedingly voluminous. When printed, these reports constitute, year by year, the "senate documents" and "assembly documents." The reports of a few legislative committees appear also in the series, but they constitute only a small part of the material to be found there. For the year 1897, the senate documents fill 12 volumes, and the assembly documents 27 volumes. As a rule, these volumes contain at least 800 pages each, and occasionally one reaches the bulk of 1,600 pages. There is in the State library, arranged on cards, a subject index to the contents of these two series of documents since 1843.

A study of these reports will reveal the workings of the

administrative machinery of the departments in considerable detail, and will relieve the inquirer to a large extent from the necessity of consulting the manuscript originals. All the departments are bureaus of regulation and control, exercising a more or less strict supervision over the localities, local enterprises, and interests of which they have charge. The chief method of procedure is through periodical reports by local officials and concerns, and reports by inspectors of the department. From the information thus obtained, the central board or commissioner prepares a report, makes suggestions as to changes in legislation, modifies the rules of the department, and brings administrative or judicial pressure to bear to check prevailing evils or encourage improvement. The general uniformity of practice thus indicated will, of course, be reflected in the archives on file in the departments. The following statement regarding these departmental records is based on a study of the laws creating them and of the later reports, supplemented by a visit to each of the departments referred to.

*The office of the superintendent of State prisons* has existed in its present form since 1877. It has control over the State prisons and over the Matteawan State Hospital for Insane Convicts. Printed reports relating to the prisons of the State since 1821 are in the office, and occasionally a record of some earlier year; but the series is incomplete, and, for the earlier years, even fragmentary. The later records consist mainly of files of reports and other papers, and index cards. In 1896 provision was made for the adoption by the State of the Bertillon system of identification of criminals. The entries and photographs connected with this, and for all the inmates of the State prisons, are placed on cards and filed in this office. Reports are filed here of admissions, discharges, and deaths of all convicts in the State prisons, of all special punishments inflicted on them, of their transfers from one prison to another, of the labor they have performed, of the deposits of money made by them, and of their expenditures as permitted by law. Contracts for the construction and repair of buildings are approved in this office, and audited and paid by the comptroller. Besides the records of prison administration in the

restricted sense of the term, there will also be found a record of all purchases, sales and shipments, both of raw materials and of the finished product, which have their origin in the system of convict labor.

*The bank department* has control over banks of deposit and discount, savings banks, trust companies, safe deposit companies, building and loan associations, and foreign mortgage companies. Personal loan associations (i. e., pawnbrokers) report yearly to this department, but the department can not order an examination of them. The earliest records in the office were transferred from the office of the comptroller, and consist of a series of 10 ledgers and 23 journals, beginning in 1838, and containing entries relating to banks of issue. These records cease with the establishment of the national banks. In this office books are largely used, as well as files of papers, and the bulk of its records has grown with the increase of the lines of business over which it exercises supervision. It receives quarterly or annual reports from all concerns subject to its authority, and its examiners also at intervals examine and report on their condition. This supplies the department with precise information as to the existing number of those institutions, and as to those which begin business or for any reason discontinue it during any year, as well as all details relating to their financial condition. This material, when tabulated, forms the substance of the annual reports of the department; the originals will be found among its files and in its record books. Besides this, the only records of the office are those which relate to the expenses attendant on the administration of its control, and to the funds of the various institutions held in trust by the superintendent to insure the payment by each concern of the proportion of the total expenses of administration assessed upon it.

What has just been stated concerning the department of banks applies, with necessary modification in details, to the *insurance department*. The control of this department is exercised in substantially the same way as that of the bank department, and extends to fire, marine, life, and casualty companies of all varieties, located or doing business within the State. The reports which supply it with the detailed

information concerning the business and standing of these institutions, abstracted in the annual reports of the department, are filed in its office or entered on its books. This process has been followed in increasing detail and under frequent modifications of the law since the origin of the department in 1859. Prior to that date such returns as were made of insurance companies, and they were meager, were directed to the comptroller. With the organization of the insurance department these records were transferred to the custody of the superintendent of insurance. These early reports were compiled by the department in the early 60's, and are contained in volumes known as "Barnes's Condensed Reports."

In the office of the *superintendent of public instruction* will be found—

- 135 volumes commissioners' abstracts of trustees' reports.
- 45 volumes apportionment of public school money.
- 1 volume union free school organization papers.
- 696 union free school organization papers, since 1854.
- 1,200 reports of city superintendents, 1854-1900.
- 500 school district contracts for education of pupils, 1895-1900.
- 1 volume record of normal-school graduates.
- 295 letter books, 1,000 pp. each, containing copies of letters written since July 1, 1895.
- 244 letter files, about 1,000 letters each, containing letters received and answered since July 1, 1895.

The correspondence prior to 1895 is kept, but is packed away, and its extent can not be stated.

A record book, 500 pages, in which is kept a record of applications by districts and cities for library money, reports on library expenditure, and book lists submitted for approval, is also here. The original applications, reports, and lists from which the data in this book are compiled are kept on file for one year from date of presentation and then destroyed.

A very large body of examination answer papers are also kept temporarily on file in the office. These are preserved for from one to three years each. The number of them on file at any one time is estimated at more than 250,000. They consist of kindergarten and ninth grade examination papers; training school and training class examination papers; papers

from college training departments; Cornell examination papers; State examination, and uniform examination papers. Since 1894-95 the card catalogue system has been used in recording for permanent reference the standing of candidates in these examinations. Twenty-seven record books, of 200 to 300 pages each, are also filled with entries of the results of examinations. Besides these are 8 volumes, 300 pages each, containing records of appointments of pupils to deaf and dumb institutions; 1 volume, 300 pages, containing records of appointments of blind pupils; 1 volume, 300 pages, containing a record of the extension of time of deaf, dumb, and blind pupils; 2 volumes containing copies of requisitions on boards of supervisors for clothing for deaf, dumb, and blind pupils; 1 volume, 500 pages, containing record of appointments to normal schools, 1892-1900. Since April 1, 1900, this record has been kept by the card system. Thirty volumes contain the record of decisions in appeal cases heard before the superintendent of public instruction. Of these, volumes 1-14 average 400 pages each, and contain the record of decisions from April 12, 1819, to January 1, 1855. Volumes 15-30 contain 800 pages each, and record the decisions from January 1, 1855, to date. The decisions since the beginning of 1855 number 4,875. All the papers submitted in connection with these cases are kept on file in the office. The annual reports of the department for recent years contain summaries of appeal cases. There are also the records of applications for college graduates' certificates, May 30, 1880, to date; reports of commissioners' visits to common schools, 15,000 annually, from 1895 to date; 2,000 reports of attendance at and expenses of teachers' institutes, 1880 to date.

One copy of the successive annual reports from each of the principals of the normal schools in the State, from the superintendent of the Indian school, and from the superintendents of the institutions for the deaf and dumb, is kept on file.

One hundred and thirteen commission reports of town truant officers are filed each year.

The files of papers and documents in the office of the *State board of charities* contain annual reports from poorhouses



and almshouses since 1869;<sup>1</sup> annual reports from orphan asylums, hospitals, and dispensaries since 1873;<sup>2</sup> correspondence of the board since July, 1867; particulars in reference to State poor cases since 1873; register of tramps applying to police, 1875-76; census of insane and idiots, 1871; census of epileptics, 1895; reports of inspections of charitable institutions filed by the inspectors of the board since 1896; monthly reports from childrens' institutions in receipt of public moneys (showing movement of population) since 1897; individual register of children admitted and discharged from charitable institutions in receipt of public moneys since 1895; original minutes of the board since 1867, all of which exist also in printed form; various card catalogues and indexes of material in the office. Among the latter are an index to plans and specifications of buildings of public charitable institutions (such plans being subject to the approval of the board), and an index to certificates of compliance with the rules and regulations of the board filed by institutions in receipt of public moneys. The annual reports of this department, as is customary, have been printed.

The *State board of health* has as one of its leading functions the collection and preservation of the vital statistics of the State. Excepted from its control in this matter are New York City, Yonkers, Albany, and Buffalo. The department was organized in 1880, and has no records prior to that date. During the last four or five years its records have been kept by the card system, with a synopsis of information on each card. About 150,000 records of births, deaths, and marriages are now received yearly, the returns being made in monthly reports from local boards of health. Local boards exist in every town, village, and city in the State, and are obliged by law to keep such record and make such returns, under regulations prescribed by the State board. There are about 1,400 of these local boards in the State, and with them the State board is in constant communication. It corresponds with them in reference to sewers, water supply, nuisances, epidemics, the existence of contagious or infec-

<sup>1</sup> Embodied in annual reports to the legislature for corresponding years.

<sup>2</sup> Classification now enlarged so as to include all classes of private charities in receipt of public moneys.

tious diseases, and any condition which specially imperils health. The adulteration of articles of food and drink, and the existence of tuberculosis and glanders among animals, furnish especial objects for its attention. The board employs two consulting engineers, who report on the sanitary condition of cities and towns under its control. Reports respecting all matters which come under the control of the board, whether from its agents or from local officials, are filed in the office, as is the extensive correspondence of the board. The board is also required by law to keep a record of its meetings.

The *board of railroad commissioners* has been in existence since 1882. The nature of its work is much the same as that of the insurance and banking departments. Its duties, like those of most other departments, may be found in the statutes, and the full results of its work are set forth in its annual reports. Its records consist of the minutes of the board, printed in its reports, and of the voluminous reports which are made to it annually or oftener by the railroad corporations chartered by the State or doing business therein. These records show, among other things, gross and net income, expenses, increase in mileage, number of passengers carried, car equipment, accidents, grade crossings, etc. The reports, with all correspondence, are kept on file, everything of value being tabulated in the annual reports.

In the office of the *court of claims* will be found the principal records of the canal appraisers, the State board of audit, the board of claims and its successor of recent origin, the court of claims. A board of canal appraisers in some form existed from the origin of the canal system of the State to 1883. Its records consist of a series of old books, of varying sizes and numbered consecutively from 1 to 5. These contain records of awards of claims under the following dates: Book 1, December, 1818, to January, 1821, 17 pages; book 2, July, 1820, to November, 1820 (with a few entries of later date), 130 pages; book 3, July, 1821, to October, 1823, 39 pages; book 4, September, 1826, to February, 1831, 323 pages; book 5, September, 1831, to October, 1835, 83 pages. One book of award of claims on the Black River Canal is also here.

Following in historical order the above series are 122 large ledger volumes entitled "Appraisals of New York canals." This series begins in 1835 and continues till the abolition of the board of canal appraisers in 1882. Each volume contains about 500 pages of records, and the series, taken together, includes the claims, the awards, and part of the testimony taken in all the cases which arose during the period. Original papers of the canal appraisers are also preserved here in 228 large files. These extend from 1825 to 1883, and contain claims, testimony, and awards.

In this office is also a minute book of the State board of audit, containing 392 pages of records extending from the organization of the board in July, 1876, to its dissolution in April, 1883. Certain other record books of this board are also here, viz: 1 book of decisions, February, 1880, to April, 1883, 136 pages; 1 volume entitled "Register of claims, No. 2" (all its records fall within 1883); 2 calendars of the board of audit (of cases before the courts), beginning June, 1876, and closing January, 1883. About 20 files of papers of the board of audit, falling apparently within the later dates of its history, are also here.

The records of the *board of claims*, created in 1883, and of its successor, the court of claims, which began its work in 1897, are to be found here in full. The minutes of the board of claims fill one large ledger and part of another—about 1,000 pages in all. The court of claims is still using its first minute book. A series of 3 ledgers called "order books" contain the orders of the two boards amending claims, changing title to them, or dismissing them. Ten volumes of award books (about 600 pages each) contain the judgments of the board of claims (1883 to 1897). A volume lettered "A" contains awards of damage for the destruction, by order of the State board of health, of tuberculous cattle. The awards here entered fall between April, 1894, and June, 1896, and comprise 101 pages. The series of the existing court of claims which correspond to the award books just mentioned are called "judgment books." They number 2 volumes of about 600 pages each, and a third volume now in use.

Both the board of claims and the court of claims kept a

series known as "claim books." These contain brief entries of the presentation of claims, and of each successive step taken in reference to them till the final award. The first series of these claim books (1883-1897) comprises 6 volumes; the later series 3 volumes. A volume entitled "Appeals from canal board to canal appraisers transferred to board of claims," 500 pages, explains itself. The cases there entered appear to have been acted on within two years after the establishment of the board of claims. Another volume entitled "Register of Appeals" contains in 57 pages entries of all cases in which appeals have been taken from the decisions of the board of claims and the court of claims—i. e., from 1883 to the present time.

All original papers of the board of claims and of the court of claims are preserved here in about 300 large files. Here also are 200 maps relating to the canals, which have been submitted as evidence in connection with claims.

The State *civil service commission* has, in either books or files, records of all amendments made by the governors to State civil service rules, and by the commission to city civil service rules; all the examination papers of the commission; lists of all who have entered examinations, the numbers that passed and numbers that failed; records of all appointments under the rules, promotions, transfers, resignations, removals, and deaths; and all eligible lists and the standing of each person on the same. Lists of names are generally kept by the card system. The manuscripts of the minutes of the commission are also in the office, filling 5 volumes. All its records since its establishment at the beginning of 1884 have been preserved.

The *bureau of labor statistics* was established in 1883, but its records, except so far as they were printed, from that date to 1896 have nearly all been destroyed. Since 1897 everything of importance has been preserved. Chapter 415, article 2, section 32, of the laws of 1897 gives the head of the bureau permission to destroy papers after the lapse of two years, but of that permission he does not propose to avail himself. All records of importance in this bureau will hereafter be preserved. Beginning with 1897, a series of reports from labor organizations within the State has been

received, the most important features of which are the statements of the number of men out of work and of the earnings of workmen. Manufacturers' returns have been received from 1891 to 1899, and these will be continued. These latter came from all classes of trades and industries, not including commercial or transportation companies, though in the case of the latter returns are received from railroad-repair shops. In the returns the number of employees, the rates of wages, the hours of labor, and the aggregate annual wages paid are reported. These reports are kept in files, classified according to industries. Other similar reports will be preserved. From reports of this nature the tabulated material in the annual reports of the bureau is drawn, the usage being in general the same as in other similar departments.

Few records of the *department of buildings* exist prior to 1898. There are pay rolls since 1883, and a set of daybooks and ledgers from 1885. Since the beginning of 1898, in addition to journals and ledgers, a time book, leave-of-absence book, payroll book, order book, and invoice book are kept. The appropriation books show how all appropriations for the use of the department have been expended. Letters and contracts are all filed, as are the civil service eligible lists of candidates for positions in the departments, and the proceedings of trustees of public buildings. Certificates of disability entitling the injured employees to free care at the Albany Hospital are also made out for workmen who are injured while in the service of the department, and lists of these cases are kept. Requisitions made by the department, showing the cost of its maintenance, are also kept on file, and yearly inventories of all the property of the department are also made and filed.

The *board of mediation and arbitration* was established in 1886. The minutes of all its meetings from the outset have been preserved, and now fill nearly three volumes. None of these are in print. Annual reports have been made since 1888. The material contained in the annual reports is derived largely from reports obtained by the department concerning strikes. Of unimportant strikes no investigation is made, the statement of the parties interested being

taken. Of all important strikes within the State, agents of the department make investigation and report. These reports are kept on file, and detailed statements from them, and of action which results from them, appear in the reports. All important correspondence is also preserved. In the early years of the department not so great care was taken to preserve letters, and perhaps the volume of other material preserved was not so great as now, but for the past seven years, at least, the records have been fully kept.

In the same year with the establishment of the board of mediation and arbitration, the *State factory inspector* began his work. His right of inspection extends to bakeries and boilers as well as to factories. In record books in his office are kept entries of all orders issued by the department, the name of the party to whom each order was sent, the location of the establishment, the date on which the place was inspected by the deputy, the number of the inspector's report on the place, the inspector's name, the date on which notification, if any, was issued, and the special orders embraced in the notification. One set of these books is kept for factory notices and another for bakery notices. A record book is also kept which contains all licenses granted and refused by the department, and all data and remarks concerning these which are necessary for a complete record. A record is kept of boiler inspection reports, which are submitted in accordance with the provisions of section 91 of the labor law, giving names of owners, agents or lessees, the addresses and names of persons making the inspection, and other details. The number of inspections made each week by deputy inspectors of the department is also recorded, as are the names of all inspectors, the cities or villages visited each day, and the number of inspections made in these places. A weekly summary report is submitted each Monday covering every item of work done by the deputy inspectors, so far as it is possible to record it. A map is kept of each inspector's district in New York, Brooklyn, and Buffalo, these maps being checked off each week in accordance with the information submitted in the weekly summaries, showing the boundaries of the blocks in those cities where inspections have been made during the

week. Long sets of letter-press copying books are kept in the office. These contain all factory notices and bakery notices issued throughout the State; all notices issued regarding changes which the labor law requires to be made in mines; communications addressed to manufacturers asking them to furnish the department with lists of contractors and finishers; notices addressed to parties to whom licenses are refused, informing them what must be done before the license provided and called for in section 100 of the labor law can be secured.

Files of papers are also preserved in this office which contain in original and detailed form the facts recorded in the books already mentioned: as schedules of inspections, records of prosecutions, applications for licenses, manufacturers' reports on accidents, lists of contractors and finishers, duplicates of certificates issued by local boards of health to children between 14 and 16 years of age, etc. The correspondence of the department is all kept on file, and contains general letters, letters regarding notices sent by the department, letters to deputy inspectors, letters on the subject of the weekly payment law, communications about prosecutions by the department, complaints of all sorts, letters of inquiry from boards of health, and letters regarding appointments, removals, and resignations. In most cases these files begin in 1886, but some start at later dates, as 1896 and 1899. A card system is used for recording reports concerning accidents submitted by manufacturers in accordance with section 87 of the labor law.

In the office of the *State commission in lunacy* are the records of the living inmates of all institutions in 1889, the date of the creation of the commission, together with the records of admissions, discharges, deaths, etc., of all patients received into the institutions since 1889. All correspondence with institutions is kept in volumes, classified by institutions, and indexed. Estimates for supplies for institutions are submitted to this office and are subject to its revision, and purchases are checked up here. The records of all the financial transactions of the institutions controlled by the commission also come to this office, and are here audited and preserved. Records of payments by relatives of expenses

of patients (called "reimbursing patients") who are able to pay are kept here. Minutes of the monthly conferences of hospital superintendents are filed in the office, and are also printed in the reports of the department. The minutes of stewards' conferences are also kept, but not printed. As to the admission, discharge, and other customary entries, the office has the same record concerning the patients of all licensed private institutions as it has of State institutions; but of their financial condition it has no record. The characteristic way of keeping records in this office is to bind them in volumes, instead of filing them in cases, the volumes being indexed by cards. There are now in the office about 50,000 cards of patients who are living.

The present *department of agriculture* is the outgrowth of the dairy commission, established in 1884 to stop the sale of oleomargarine as a substitute for butter, and of adulterated milk. Its appropriation, at the outset, was not large, and its official staff consisted of the commissioner, one assistant, and four agents in New York city. The work increased year by year till 1893, when the law was revised, additional duties were imposed, and the name was changed to department of agriculture. The reports from all agents from 1884 are filed in this office. For many years past these reports have been made weekly, and set forth the entire work of each agent or inspector. The control of the department, for the purpose of checking adulteration, fraud, and disease, and promoting purity and health, now extends to milk, butter, cheese, cheese factories, creameries, dairies, milk stations, and stables; also to vinegar, "bob" veal, linseed oil, maple sirup, and paris green. Nurseries are also subject to inspection, for the purpose of preventing disease among trees; and the gypsy moth receives a share of attention. Domestic animals are subject to inspection, with a view to the suppression of all contagious diseases, save tuberculosis and glanders, which are under the control of the State board of health. Under a provision of the State law encouraging the beet-sugar industry the department of agriculture provides instruction to those undertaking to raise that product. Records of all transactions arising from the exercise of these powers, especially of all prosecutions at the instance of the



department and all reports and correspondence, are preserved. For the administrative purposes of the department the State is divided into 10 divisions, and records are, to a large extent, arranged accordingly. Certificates of health are issued to nurseries which are approved by the department's inspectors, while brands are annually reissued to approved cheese factories and creameries. Of all these transactions records are carefully kept. Annual reports, on printed blanks, sent out by the department, are made to this office by all agricultural societies in the State. As the premiums given by agricultural societies are drawn, in part, from State funds, vouchers for all premiums paid have to be submitted to this department by the agricultural societies. These, like all its other records, are kept on file.

In 1895 the earlier fish commission and forest commission were united under one designation—*forest, fish, and game commission*—and received some extension of powers. In 1897 the *forest preserve board* was created, to consist of appointees from the forest, fish, and game commission and the members of the forest preserve commission. The duties of the latter board are to acquire land for the State in Adirondack Park, while those of the former are to protect and promote the increase of the forests and the preserves of fish and game throughout the State. These offices are closely connected. Both boards keep minutes, and have done so from their origin. They have about 125 maps showing original surveys of parts of the Adirondack forest; part of these are copies of old maps and part represent surveys made since the establishment of the commission.<sup>1</sup> No other records of value are kept in the office.

The present *board of state tax commissioners* was created in 1896, and is the successor, with considerably increased powers, of the State assessors. The State assessors originated in 1859, and, as has already been stated, constituted, with the commissioners of the land office, the board of equalization. The law required that all books and papers pertaining to their work should be deposited with the comptroller. They appear to have kept no records, though

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<sup>1</sup> Report of Forest Commission for 1893.

printed reports exist which were issued at intervals during the period of their existence. Since 1896 all minutes and other documents of the tax commissioners are kept in their office. These records relate to examinations of methods of assessment within the State, rules and regulations issued to local assessors to enforce assessments, especially of personal property, etc.

The *prison commission* receives reports from State prisons, State reformatories, penitentiaries, and county jails. Over the first named it has not the particular and authoritative control which is possessed by the superintendent of State prisons. The reports from the county jails are prepared by the sheriffs in response to blanks sent out by the commission. The above institutions are also annually inspected by members of the commission. All reports of both kinds are filed in the office, as is the correspondence. Certain books of financial record also exist, containing a complete account of the receipts and expenditures of the commission. Six volumes of minutes contain the record of its principal doings since its origin in 1896.

The *State excise board* was created in 1897. In its office is deposited a large body of excise records from New York City, to which reference will be found in the part of this report relating to that municipality, but no other records of local excise boards are to be found here. The files of this department are very voluminous, and are well kept. They contain, for the period since the office was created, complete files of daily reports and slip reports from all parts of the States. The slip reports are arranged by counties under the names of the agents who send them. They contain the record of all licensed places, the daily reports being the statements from the excise agents of their daily doings. Bundles of maps are here of all towns enumerated by the State commissioner of excise, with enumeration bonds from all these towns. Files of all certificates canceled since 1896 are preserved; these are licenses surrendered for rebates, or for any reason which occasions voluntary action on the part of the grantee. Here are also files of all reports made by county treasurers and special commissioners. Stub books for the whole State from May 1, 1896, to the present; files

of vouchers for all bills paid by the department; files of all requisitions of and receipts for supplies furnished special agents, deputy commissioners, and county treasurers; files of papers and briefs of the law business of the department; files of reports of county clerks, police magistrates, and justices of the peace in excise cases; a record of all indictments and judgments in such cases, also of all revocations of licenses, all reported violations of the excise law, and all investigations of such charges—all these records are here in large amount and regular form. A card catalogue is kept containing a record of every licensed place in the State, its location, the name of the licensee, the date and number of the license, and the amount paid.

#### PART II.—PUBLIC RECORDS OF ONONDAGA COUNTY.

The county of Onondaga was created in 1794, being then considerably greater in area than at present. Its earlier officers lived in the western part of the county, and when that portion was set off as Cayuga County, in 1799, the early Onondaga records remained in place. They are now in the Cayuga County offices at Auburn, while the Onondaga records dated since 1799 are at the present county seat, Syracuse, where they are kept in a fireproof building erected by the county for their custody. The greater part of them are well kept and easily accessible.

##### SUPERVISORS' RECORDS.

These are in the custody of the clerk of the board and are kept in a separate room in the county building. The files of miscellaneous papers cover 1829–1900, the earlier ones having probably been destroyed at the time of the removal of the county seat in 1829. No manuscript minutes of the board are in the office, but a file of printed proceedings covers the time since about 1850. One volume of board minutes covering 1813–1824 is in the county clerk's office.

##### COUNTY CLERK'S RECORDS.

These are in the county building. The realty records form a complete series, and are well kept and easily accessible. The court records for the last fifty years are also

well kept, but those of earlier date are stored in the cellar without care or order. In one part of the cellar there is also a mass of miscellaneous matter heaped up in company with rubbish. It is largely printed matter and is believed to be of no value. Included in it are the books of one of the local banking corporations. A series of files of papers used in court proceedings from 1806 to 1900 fills over 1,000 file cases, and is well kept. The clerk's records fall into three classes, those relating to the public courts, those relating to the elections and public service, and those relating to private property. The list of records in bound volumes is here given.

1. The records of the courts include:

Minutes of court of common pleas, 1799-1820, 1823-52. 13 vols.  
 Minutes of court of general sessions, 1799-1843, 1846-96. 18 vols.  
 Judgment dockets, 1799-1819, 1831-44, 1847-1900. 39 vols.  
 Bail docket, 1802-04. 1 vol.  
 Common rules, 1807-11, 1815-18, 1820-27, 1834-37, 1841-46. 8 vols.  
 Writ returns, 1808-34, 1837-47. 7 vols.  
 Court records, undesignated, 1813-16, 1822-30. 3 vols.  
 Grand jury roll, 1827-32. 1 vol.  
 Justices' dockets, 1829-30, 1867-84. 6 vols.  
 Minutes county court, 1847-1900. 11 vols.  
 County court orders in vacation, 1847-1900. 15 vols.  
 Minutes of supreme court, 1847-1900. 61 vols.  
 Minutes court of oyer and terminer, 1847-95. 11 vols.  
 Rules and orders of supreme court, 1849-54. 1 vol.  
 Supreme court orders in vacation, 1847-1900. 19 vols.  
 Judgment rolls, 1848-1900. 49 vols.  
 Appointments of receivers, 1862-1900. 2 vols.  
 Register of civil actions, 1880-1900. 16 vols.

2. The records of the public service include:

Minutes of board of supervisors, 1813-24. 1 vol.  
 Minutes supervisors' building committee, 1826-27. 1 vol.  
 Supervisors' legislation, 1875-1900. 1 vol.  
 Minutes of county excise board, 1857-69. 2 vols.  
 Loan commissioners' accounts, 1847-54. 2 vols.  
 Fall election canvasses, 1815-1900. 3 vols.  
 Register of county officers, 1856-58. 1 vol.  
 Official oaths, 1862-1900. 10 vols.  
 Naturalization register, 1862-1900. 9 vols.  
 Alien declarations, 1862-1900. 11 vols.  
 Miscellaneous records, 1799-1900. — vols.

## 3. The records of private property include:

- Transcripts of early records, 1782-1800. 3 vols.
- Deeds of realty, 1799-1900. 338 vols.
- Mortgages on realty, 1799-1900. 357 vols.
- Decrees in partition, 1812-1900. 1 vol.
- Collectors' bonds, 1823-1900. 5 vols.
- Lites pendens, 1824-1900. 17 vols.
- Salt-lot leases, 1848-1900. 3 vols.
- Syracuse chattel mortgages, 1849-88. 7 vols.
- Homestead exemptions, 1851-1900. 1 vol.
- Certificates of sheriffs' sales, 1855-1900. 3 vols.
- Wills, 1859-1900. 9 vols.
- Mechanics' liens, 1867-1900. — vols.
- Unpaid taxes, 1871-1900. 16 vols.
- Bonds and undertakings, 1887-1900. 4 vols.

## SURROGATE'S RECORDS.

These are also in the county building, and are easily accessible. Some of the earliest records are unbound and are kept in the vault. The series of records is complete. The office has about 1,300 file cases containing files of inventories, realty and tax papers, and settlements of accounts, covering the period from 1806 to the present. Following is the list of volume records:

- Wills, 1796-1900. 44 vols.
- Letters of administration, 1795-1829. 6 vols.
- Letters testamentary and administrative, 1830-52. 4 vols.
- Letters testamentary, 1852-1900. 25 vols.
- Letters of administration, 1852-1900. 29 vols.
- Administrators' bonds, 1795-1809. 3 vols.
- Appointments of guardians, 1803-1900. 32 vols.
- Bonds, 1809-1900. 19 vols.
- Miscellaneous orders, 1821-1900. 27 vols.
- Proceedings in dower, 1830-79. 1 vol.
- Distribution of moneys, 1831-41. 1 vol.
- Sales of realty, 1831-90. 6 vols.
- Appraisers' appointments, 1832-1900. 11 vols.
- Orders to publish, 1865-1900. 9 vols.
- Orders admitting probate, 1865-1900. 12 vols.
- Orders of citation, 1880-1900. 7 vols.
- Orders of letters testamentary, 1880-1900. 3 vols.
- Orders of letters administrative, 1880-1900. 7 vols.
- Orders on guardians' settlements, 1881-1900. 4 vols.
- Decrees of final settlement, 1890-1900. 11 vols.

## TOWN RECORDS.

Onondaga County includes nineteen towns, the oldest of which dates from 1794. In many cases the series of records have been injured by fire, but a mass of material still remains. The problem of the preservation of town records is a serious one. Only three towns have townhalls. In the others the older records are stored wherever and however convenience dictates. Town clerks have learned by experience that, as a rule, no demand will be made for anything except chattel mortgages, local election returns, and local road surveys. These are accordingly kept at hand and others relegated to storage. The unwieldy mass of stored material has been swelled by printed matter, mostly statute books and supervisors' proceedings, until the storage of it, in some towns, has become a burden. Two towns have deliberately burned their old material, and others may be expected to follow the example from time to time. The historical importance of this town material is, perhaps, open to discussion. Local government has grown up here under the molding influence of statute law, and there has not been that play of local development which makes the town records of the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries so important. The local records would probably add little to the institutional history of the State. Their chief interest, for the historical worker, is in the light which they throw upon the economic and social progress of the local communities, from the frontier stage to the conditions of to-day. Their value to the genealogist and antiquarian may be passed over. It may be said that, considering the conditions, the town clerks have been remarkably faithful in their guardianship of the local archives. The local records would, however, profit immeasurably by some sort of central supervision. The scattered condition of the records has made an exhaustive enumeration impossible, but the following lists, covering the accessible part of the local records, are nearly complete.

*Camillus.*—Camillus was erected as a town in 1799. Its older records were lost by fire many years ago. The recent records are kept in a desk in the frame residence of the present town clerk at Camillus village. A mass of loose

papers and printed matter is also heaped together in the upper room of a brick building used by a former town clerk as a store. A new townhall is in process of erection. The accessible records are as follows:

- Town-meeting record and town-board minutes, 1889-1900. 1 vol.
- Official oaths, 1899-1900. 1 vol.
- Miscellany, 1 vol., including road surveys, 1813-97, school district record, 1812-68.
- Tax rolls from 1871 onward. 8 vols.
- Vital statistics, 1883-1900. 1 vol.
- Chattel mortgages, 1849-1900. 2 vols.

*Cicero.*—Cicero was made a town in 1807. The older records were lost by fire in 1851. The clerk's office is in a frame building at Cicero settlement used as a store and post-office. The more recent records are in a safe, but the older material is guarded only by a wooden case. The clerk has also a quantity of printed matter and loose papers stored in packing boxes or heaped upon shelves close by. Accessible records are:

- Town-meeting record and town-board minutes, 1852-1900. 1 vol.
- Register of nominations, 1898. 1 vol.
- Naturalization register, 1896. 1 vol.
- Justices' dockets, 1862-97. 4 vols.
- Tax rolls, dates not examined. 72 vols.
- Road surveys and district record, 1852-1900. 1 vol.
- Highway accounts, 1852-92. 1 vol.
- School-district records and school-money accounts, 1852-1900. 1 vol.
- School districts' local accounts, 1857-82. 1 vol.
- Vital statistics, 1886-1900. 1 vol.
- Chattel mortgages, 1852-1900. 2 vols.

*Clay.*—Clay was made a town in 1827. Its older records seem to be missing. The principal part of the records are kept in a wooden case in the rear storeroom of a frame building at Euclid settlement used by the town clerk as a store. In the cellar is a mass of mildewed papers, mostly printed matter, but including some local records. Accessible matter is as follows:

- Miscellany, 2 vols.; contents follow, marked "A" and "B."
- Town-meeting record and town-board minutes, 1856-1900. In A.
- Town-board minutes, 1891-1900. In B.
- Justices' dockets, 1857-1900. 2 vols.

Town accounts, 1857-1900. 2 vols.  
 Poor accounts, 1857-97. 1 vol.  
 Road surveys, 1857-85. In B.  
 School trustee lists and district record, 1875-99. In B.  
 Vital statistics, 1848, 1882-1900. 2 vols.  
 Chattel mortgages, 1849-1900. 2 vols.  
 Estray record, 1856-99. In A.

*Dewitt.*—Dewitt was erected in 1835, and its records are nearly complete. They are in a frame building used by the town clerk as store and dwelling, in East Syracuse village. Volume records are in a safe and files of recent papers in a desk. A mass of unboxed material is stored on the upper floor of the building. Following is the list:

Miscellany, 1 vol.; contents follow, marked "A."  
 Town-meeting record, 1835-98. 1 vol.  
 Excise board minutes, 1835-75. In A.  
 Tax roll, 1854.  
 Town accounts, 1835-1900. 2 vols.  
 Road surveys and orders, 1857-93. 1 vol.  
 Road district record, 1835-56. In A.  
 Vital statistics, 1885-1900. 1 vol.  
 Chattel mortgages, 1850-1900. 2 vols.  
 Estray record, 1835-98. 1 vol.

*Elbridge.*—Elbridge became a town in 1829, and has suffered little loss of records. The records are kept in a brick building at Jordan village, used by the town clerk as a jewelry store. Bound volumes and recent papers are in a safe. A large quantity of miscellaneous material is stored in packing cases on an upper floor. Accessible records are:

Miscellany, 2 vols. Contents follow, marked "A" and "B."  
 Town-meeting record, 1829-53, 1854-99. In A and B.  
 Town board and health board minutes, 1880-1900. In B.  
 Justices' dockets, 1844-1900. 10 vols.  
 Assessment roll, 1861. 1 vol.  
 Petit jury lists, 1839-42. In A.  
 Town accounts, 1831-67. 1 vol.  
 Poor accounts, 1829-81. 1 vol.  
 Road survey transcripts, 1814-29. 34 pages, loose.  
 Road surveys and district record, 1829-53. In A.  
 Road commissioners' orders, 1855-1900. In B.  
 School money accounts and district record, 1829-77. 1 vol.  
 School money accounts and district record, 1830-48. In A.  
 Marriages, 1830. In A.  
 Chattel mortgages, 1890-1900. 1 vol.



*Fabius.*—The town of Fabius, created in 1798, has its records in a frame building at Fabius village, used by the town clerk as a store. Some of the records were lost by fire in 1882. Of those now extant, the newer ones are kept in a safe, while the older are in a wooden desk. The clerk reports two packing cases of old matter stored on an upper floor of the place. The accessible matter follows:

Miscellany; 2 vols. Contents follow, marked "A" and "B."

Town-meeting record, 1855-57. In B.

Town-meeting record and town-board minutes, 1883-99. 1 vol.

Justices' dockets, 1858-94. 5 vols.

Tax rolls, from about 1840 and later. 60 vols.

Town accounts, 1816-30. In A.

Town accounts, 1876-1900. 2 vols.

Poor accounts, 1878-1900. 1 vol.

Highway accounts, 1876-1900. 1 vol.

Registry of soldiers, 1866. 1 vol.

Road surveys, 1797-1890. In A and B.

Road district record, 1816-20. In A.

Road district record, 18—1881. 1 vol.

School money account, 1857-68. 1 vol.

Vital statistics, 1882-1900. 1 vol.

Chattel mortgages, 1882-1900. 1 vol.

Estray and stock-mark record, 1798-1864. 1 vol.

*Geddes.*—Geddes dates from 1848. It possesses a town-hall in Solvay village, where its records are kept. Volume records are in a safe, and very recent papers in a fireproof vault. The clerk reports also a wooden case and a packing-box filled with files and printed matter. This is one of the towns where the problem of storage was solved about 1897 by burning a mass of old files. Volume records include:

Miscellany; 1 vol. Contents follow, marked "A."

Town-meeting record and town-board minutes, 1848-1900. 1 vol.

Tax rolls, 1848-1900. 52 vols.

Town accounts, 1848-1900. 1 vol.

Highway assessments, 1866-1900. 1 vol.

Road surveys, 1848-63. In A.

Road surveys, 1848-97. 1 vol.

Chattel mortgages, 1849-1900. 1 vol.

Estray record, 1850-85. In A.

*Lafayette.*—Lafayette was erected in 1825. Its records are kept at Lafayette settlement in the frame dwelling occupied by the town clerk, the more important books and

papers being in a wooden "secretary" and the older matter stored in the garret in packing cases. Accessible matter follows:

- Town-meeting record and board minutes, 1826-1900. 2 vols.
- Fall election canvasses, 1826-79. 1 vol.
- Tax rolls, 1859-65, 1889-1900. 12 vols.
- Road surveys and district record, 1826-93. 1 vol.
- Chattel mortgages, 1849-1900. 1 vol.

*Lysander.*—The town of Lysander was created by statute in 1794 but not organized until 1795. Its records are in a brick building, used as a hardware store, at Baldwinsville village. The more important volumes are kept in a safe and the less important ones on shelves in an upper room. Several packing boxes contain files of loose papers and printed matter. Accessible matter follows:

- Miscellany; 2 vols. Contents follow, marked "A" and "B."
- Town-meeting record, 1808-35. In A.
- Town-meeting record and town-board minutes, 1836-1900. 2 vols.
- Excise board minutes, 1875-92. 1 vol.
- Fall election canvasses, 1807-21. In A.
- Justices' dockets and marriage record, 1840-52. 2 vols.
- Tax rolls, from about 1850 and later. 50 vols.
- Town accounts, 1828-75, 1885-95. 2 vols.
- Highway assessments, 1893-1900. 2 vols.
- Road surveys and district record, 1809-34. In A.
- Road surveys and road officers, 1836-93. 1 vol.
- School district record, 1834-1900. In B.
- School district local accounts, 1873-95. 1 vol.
- School money account, 1846-1900. In B.
- School officers' registry, 1892-1900. In B.
- Chattel mortgages, 1849-1900. 4 vols.
- Estray record, 1821-35. In A. Also 1836-98. 1 vol.

*Manlius.*—Manlius was erected in 1794. It was one of the earliest settled towns in the county, and had a remarkably full series of local records until their almost total loss by fire about 1890. At present the records are kept in a small frame building at Fayetteville village used as a glove factory, the more important ones in a safe, and the others in wooden cases and desks. The list follows:

- Town-meeting record and town board minutes, 1890-1900. 1 vol.
- Health board minutes, 1882-1900. 1 vol.
- Poll list, 1891.
- Justices' dockets, 1835-90. 6 vols.

Tax rolls, from about 1850 and later. About 40 vols.  
 Registry of dogs, 1890-1900. 1 vol.  
 Town accounts, 1860-87. 1 vol.  
 Highway accounts, 1873-98. 1 vol.  
 Registry of soldiers, 1866. 1 vol.  
 Minutes of monument committee, 1868. 1 vol.  
 Road surveys, 1794-1837. 1 vol.  
 School money account, 1857-62. 1 vol.  
 School district record, 1837-97. 1 vol.  
 Vital statistics, 1887-1900. 1 vol.  
 Chattel mortgages, 1849-1900. 2 vols.

*Marcellus.*—Marcellus was created a town in 1794. Its earlier records were lost by fire about 1830. The present records are at Marcellus village, in a frame building used as barber shop and dwelling. Volume records are in a safe and recent files in a wooden case, both of which repositories are in the shop. Miscellaneous matter in packing cases is stored in a shed at the rear, along with household rubbish. Accessible records are:

Town-meeting record, 1830-90. 1 vol.  
 Justices' docket, 1895-1900. 1 vol.  
 Town accounts, 1831-1900. 1 vol.  
 Road records. 1 vol. (loaned).  
 School-money accounts and district record, 1830-60. 1 vol.  
 Vital statistics, 1885-1900. 1 vol.  
 Chattel mortgages, 1859-1900. 1 vol.  
 Estray and stock-mark record, 1830-99. 1 vol.

*Onondaga.*—Onondaga was created a town in 1798. The town clerk's office is at Onondaga Valley settlement, in a frame building used as a store. Recent papers and volume records are kept in a safe. The clerk reports two trunks on an upper floor filled with miscellany. The list includes:

Town-meeting record, 1798-1900. 4 vols.  
 Health-board minutes, 1886-1900. 1 vol.  
 Register of nominations, 1898-1900. 1 vol.  
 Collectors' bonds, 1888-1900. 1 vol.  
 Town accounts, 1835-87. 1 vol.  
 Poor accounts, 1888-1900. 1 vol.  
 Highway accounts, 1888-1900. 1 vol.  
 Road surveys, 1798-1900. 3 vols.  
 Road district record, 1817-47. 1 vol.  
 School-money account, 1818-90. 1 vol.  
 School-district record, 1798-1880, 1887-1900. 3 vols.  
 Chattel mortgages, 1848-1900. 1 vol.  
 Estray record, 1887-1900. 1 vol.

*Otisco.*—Otisco was made a town in 1806. Its records are kept at Otisco Center settlement, in the frame dwelling of the town clerk, and are given commendable care. Recent records are kept in a desk. The older records and printed matter fill a wooden case and a packing box in an upper room. The list is as follows:

Miscellany, 1 vol.; contents follow, marked "A," "B," and "C."  
 Town-meeting record, 1806-93. In A, B, C.  
 Town-meeting record and town-board minutes, 1894-1900. 1 vol.  
 Health-board minutes, 1886-1900. 1 vol.  
 Excise-board minutes, 1830-74. 1 vol.  
 Fall election canvasses, 1806-93. In A, B, C.  
 Register of nominations, 1891-1900. 1 vol.  
 Tax rolls, about 1840 and later. 54 vols.  
 Assessment books, 1842 and later. 13 vols.  
 Registry of soldiers, 1866. 1 vol.  
 Road surveys and district record, 1806-93. In A, B, C.  
 School-money accounts, 1848-76. 2 vols.  
 School-district record, 1806-93. In A, B, C.  
 Vital statistics, 1884-1900. 1 vol.  
 Chattel mortgages, 1893-1900. 1 vol.  
 Estray and stock-mark record, 1806-93. In A, B, C.

*Pompey.*—The town of Pompey was erected in 1794. Its records are almost complete, and seem to be the object of some measure of local pride. The accessible matter is kept in excellent condition. The records are in a frame building at Pompey settlement used as a store by the town clerk. The recent records are in a safe and the older ones in a wooden desk. The town clerk reports also a mass of files and printed matter, filling five packing boxes, in a side room. The accessible material follows:

Town-meeting record and town-board minutes, 1794-1900. 2 vols.  
 Excise-board minutes, 1870-95. 1 vol.  
 Fall election canvasses, 1799-1899. 4 vols.  
 Justices' dockets, 1854-85. 4 vols.  
 Tax rolls and assessment books, 1852 and later. 46 vols.  
 Road surveys and district record, 1794-1898. 1 vol.  
 School-money accounts and district record, 1813-98. 1 vol.  
 School collectors' bonds, 1887-99. 1 vol.  
 Vital statistics, 1847-49, 1887-1900. 2 vols.  
 Chattel mortgages, 1849-1900. 1 vol.  
 Estray and stock-mark record, 1794-1899. 1 vol.

*Salina.*—Salina became a town in 1809, and has its records apparently complete. The town hall is a frame building at Liverpool village, and here are stored a great quantity of the older records. The recent records are in a safe at the store of the town clerk. The principal records are as follows:

Miscellany, 3 vols.; contents follow, marked "A," "B," and "C."  
 Town-meeting record, 1809-92. In A and B.  
 Town-meeting record and town-board minutes, 1892-1900. 1 vol.  
 Health-board minutes, 1882-1900. 1 vol.  
 Fall election canvasses, 1809-34. In A and B.  
 Naturalization register, 1895-1900. 1 vol.  
 Justices' dockets, 1829-51. 10 vols.  
 Tax rolls, about 1840 and later. 46 vols.  
 Town accounts, 1848-94. 1 vol.  
 Poor accounts, 1829-30. 1 vol.  
 Road surveys, 1809-31, in A. Also 1830-76. 1 vol.  
 Road district record, 1843-88. In C.  
 School-money accounts, 1844-56. 1 vol.  
 School-district record, 1880-88. In C.  
 Register of school officers, 1890-95. In C.  
 Salt Company reports, 1854-58. 1 vol.  
 Census returns, 1845. 1 vol.  
 Vital statistics, 1883-1900. 4 vols.  
 Chattel mortgages, 1849-1900. 2 vols.  
 Estray record, 1830-88. 1 vol.

*Skaneateles.*—Skaneateles was erected in 1830. Its records seem to be incomplete. They are at present in a frame building in Skaneateles village used by the town clerk as a coal and feed office. The principal records are in a safe, but a quantity of filed papers fills a wooden case, and on the upper floor is heaped a quantity of material, largely printed matter. The volumes include—

Miscellany, 1 vol. Contents follow, marked "A."  
 Town meeting record and town board minutes, 1836-1900. 2 vols.  
 Excise board minutes, 1836-56. 1 vol.  
 Register of nominations, 1898-1900. In A.  
 Justices' dockets, 1862-99. 7 vols.  
 Tax rolls, about 1870 and later. 20 vols.  
 Assessment roll, 1852. 1 vol.  
 Town accounts, 1830-1900. 2 vols.  
 Poor accounts, 1873-88. 2 vols.

Road commissioners' orders, 1836-1900. 3 vols.  
 School money accounts and district record, 1863-88. 1 vol.  
 Chattel mortgages, 1881-1900. 1 vol.  
 Estray record, 1835-70. In A.

*Spafford.*—Spafford was made a town in 1811, and its first town book bears the autograph of Horatio Gates Spafford, in whose honor it was named, and whose response to the compliment was the gift of the book. The town clerk's office is at Borodino settlement, in a frame building used as a store. The records are kept in a wooden case, and are in excellent condition. The list follows:

Miscellany, 2 vols. Contents follow, marked "A" and "B."  
 Town meeting record, 1812-86. In A and B.  
 Town meeting record and town board minutes, 1887-1900. 1 vol.  
 Fall election canvasses, 1812-27 and later. In A and B.  
 Justices' dockets, 1854-56, 1865-66. 2 vols.  
 Tax rolls, 1860 and later. 25 vols.  
 Town accounts, 1888-1900. 1 vol.  
 Town trustees' accounts, 1835-37 and later. In A and B  
 Poor accounts, 1823-37 and later. In A and B.  
 Poor accounts, 1823-64. 1 vol.  
 Road surveys, 1806-86. In A and B.  
 Road district record, 1824-86. In A and B.  
 School money accounts, 1826-64 and later. In A and B.  
 School money accounts, 1864-79. 1 vol.  
 School district record, 1813-35 and later. In A and B.  
 Vital statistics, 1847-49, 1861, 1869, 1887-1900. 1 vol.  
 Chattel mortgages, 1849-1900. 1 vol.  
 Estray and stock-mark record, 1812-86. In A and B.

*Tully.*—Tully was made a town in 1803. Its town records are at Tully village. Volume records are kept in a safe, and recent records in a desk in a frame building, used as furniture store and law office. The town clerk reports a packing box of old material at his dwelling. The volume records are—

Miscellany, 3 vols. Contents follow, marked "A," "B," and "C."  
 Town meeting record and town board minutes, 1847-98. In A.  
 Town board minutes, 1899-1900. In B.  
 Tax rolls, 1895 and later. 13 vols.  
 Town accounts, 1847-99. In A.  
 Poor accounts, 1805-57. 1 vol.  
 Road district record, 1833-1900. In A.  
 Road surveys, 1855-66. In C.  
 Road records and orders, 1883-1900. 1 vol.

School district record, 1831-98. 1 vol.  
 Vital statistics, 1847-48. In C. Also 1882-96. 1 vol.  
 Chattel mortgages, 1849-96. 1 vol. Also 1896-1900. In B.  
 Estray record, 1848-66. In A.

*Van Buren.*—Van Buren was erected in 1829. Part of its records were lost by fire in 1861, and a mass of material was intentionally burned in 1894. The extant records are at Baldwinsville village, in a frame building used as a barber shop. Volumes are kept in a safe, and a mass of tax rolls and poll lists is stored in packing boxes in a rear room. Accessible records are—

Town meeting record, 1829-1900. 1 vol.  
 Town board minutes, 1889-1900. 1 vol.  
 Health board minutes, 1882-1900. 1 vol.  
 Excise board minutes, 1870-96. 1 vol.  
 Poll lists, 1893-1900. 1 vol.  
 Poor accounts, 1896-1900. 1 vol.  
 Road district and school district record, 1829-1900. 1 vol.  
 School district officers, 1894-1900. 1 vol.  
 Chattel mortgages, 1849-1900. 3 vols.

#### RECORDS OF THE CITY OF SYRACUSE.

The city of Syracuse was incorporated in 1848, and now includes the former villages of Salina (1824-1848), Syracuse (1825-1848), Geddes (1832-1886), Danforth (1875-1887), and Elmwood (1891-1899). The greater part of the city records are in the city hall, a building almost fireproof in construction. Some of the departments have records stored in other buildings used by the city.

The city clerk's records include the records of the common council and former village trustees, besides the minutes of the city health board. The greater part of these are in the vault in the clerk's office. A small portion are stored among a mass of other department records in the cellar of the city hall. The accessible records include—

Salina trustees' minutes, 1824-48. 2 vols.  
 Syracuse trustees' minutes, 1825-48. 3 vols.  
 Geddes trustees' minutes, 1866-81, 1886-87. 2 vols.  
 Danforth trustees' minutes, 1875-87. 3 vols.  
 Elmwood trustees' minutes, 1891-99. 2 vols.  
 Health board minutes, 1882-1900. 3 vols.  
 Common council minutes, 1848-83. 31 vols.  
 Common council proceedings, printed, 1884-99. 16 vols.

The office of the assessors has as records the assessment rolls of the city taxes. Those for the past two years are usually kept in the office. The older assessment books, amounting to several hundred volumes, are heaped together in the cellar of the city hall.

The school board has a mass of records, including both the proceedings of the school board from 1848 to 1900 and the records of the school administration during that period. These records are mostly stored in the cellar of the high school, that building having been formerly the headquarters of the department. Very recent records are kept in the city hall.

The commissioner of public safety, whose functions superseded in 1899 those of the former police board and fire board, has the custody of the records of those bodies. The police board existed from 1869 to 1899, and the fire board from 1877 to 1899. With the exception of one volume, these records are stored in a brick building occupied by the street department. The fire-board minutes for 1896-1899 are in the commissioner's office.

The water board has an office in a brick residence block. Its minutes, in 3 volumes, covering 1889-1899, are in its vault.

The city engineer's office has maps and survey records which date, with some few exceptions, from 1890 and later. Previous to 1890 the city engineer's records were not considered public property.

The excise board existed from 1873 to 1896, being superseded in the latter year by the new State excise department. The records of the board are reported by the former clerk to have been turned over to the excise department of the State.

The health board has minutes, in the care of the city clerk, covering 1882-1900. The registrar of vital statistics has in his office 14 volumes, covering the period 1873-1900. In connection with the health office is also the plumbers' examining board, whose records cover 1892-1900.

The fire marshal's office has a record of building permits, in 2 volumes, covering 1891-1900.



The clerk of the police court has 85 volumes of court records and a mass of filed warrants, covering 1868-1900.

The clerk of the municipal court has several volumes of records of court action during 1892-1900.

The civil-service board has minutes covering the years 1885-1900.

#### VILLAGE RECORDS.

Onondaga County has fourteen villages. The incorporation of Brewerton was declared void by the court in 1883. Village records are usually small in extent, including little beyond the minutes of the village boards of trustees. Village corporations usually own a building whose lower part contains fire-department property and whose upper part is used for trustees' meetings. The records are kept, as a rule, in these buildings.

*Baldwinsville.*—Baldwinsville, incorporated in 1848, has a brick village hall, where the records are kept in a safe. There is practically nothing except 3 volumes of trustees' minutes, 1848-1900.

*Brewerton.*—Brewerton was incorporated in 1872, but declared void as a corporation by the courts in 1883. An effort to trace the fate of its trustees' minutes has failed.

*Camillus.*—Camillus was incorporated in 1852. Its clerk keeps the records in a desk at his dwelling. They include 2 volumes of trustees' minutes, 1852-1900, and 1 volume of vital statistics, 1891-1900.

*East Syracuse.*—East Syracuse was incorporated in 1881. Its records are in a safe at the village engine house. They include 3 volumes of trustees' minutes, 1881-1900, and 1 volume of the village census of 1898.

*Eastwood.*—Eastwood village, created in 1895, has its records in the dwelling of the village clerk. They include 1 volume of trustees' minutes, 1895-1900, and 1 volume of vital statistics, 1895-1900.

*Elbridge.*—Elbridge was incorporated in 1835, but its records previous to 1875 are missing, having probably been destroyed by fire. The present records, kept in a desk in a brick business block, consist of 2 volumes of trustees' minutes, 1875-1900.

*Fabius.*—Fabius, incorporated in 1880, has its records usually in a desk in the frame engine house. Recent records are, however, kept by the clerk at his store. The list includes 1 volume of trustees' minutes, 1880-1900; 2 volumes of assessment lists, 1880-1900, and 1 volume of the village census of 1898.

*Fayetteville.*—Fayetteville was incorporated in 1844. Its older records were destroyed by fire in 1894, and those existing are kept in a desk in the frame engine house. There is 1 volume of trustees' minutes, covering 1894-1900.

*Jordan.*—Jordan was incorporated in 1835, and lost part of its records by fire about 1876. Its records are now kept in a frame building used as a lock-up. They include 3 volumes of trustees' minutes, 1845-1858, 1881-1900; 24 volumes of assessment and tax lists, 1888-1900, and 1 volume of the village census of 1898.

*Liverpool.*—Liverpool was incorporated in 1830, and has its records in a brick engine house. There are 5 volumes of trustees' minutes, 1830-1870, 1885-1900; 1 volume of village health-board minutes, 1892-1900, and 8 volumes of assessment and tax lists, 1893-1900.

*Manlius.*—Manlius was incorporated in 1842. Its older records are kept in a desk in the frame building used as village lock-up, while its recent records are kept at the dwelling of the clerk. The records include 4 volumes of trustees' minutes, 1842-1900; 3 volumes of treasurers' accounts, 1842-1900, and about 25 volumes of assessment and tax lists covering loosely the same period.

*Marcellus.*—Marcellus dates from 1853. Its older records are kept in a safe in the brick engine house and its recent records in a safe in the law office of the clerk. The list includes 2 volumes of trustees' minutes, 1853-1900; 1 volume of the village census of 1898, and 6 volumes of tax lists, 1894-1900.

*Skaneateles.*—Skaneateles was incorporated in 1833. Its records are kept in a brick engine house, the more important ones being in a safe and the less important ones on the shelves of a small closet. The list includes 2 volumes of trustees' minutes, 1876-1900; 1 volume of street surveys and

assessments, 1833-1871; 1 volume of village accounts, 1857-1861, and 13 volumes of assessment and tax lists dating from 1850 and later.

*Solvay.*—Solvay, incorporated in 1894, has its records in the fireproof vault of the Geddes town hall. They include 3 volumes of trustees' minutes, 1894-1900.

*Tully.*—Tully became incorporated in 1876. Its records are in the frame building used by the village clerk for a law office. They include 2 volumes of trustees' minutes, 1876-1900, and 23 volumes of assessment and tax lists, 1876-1900.

### PART III.—THE PUBLIC ARCHIVES OF THE CITY OF NEW YORK, AND OF OTHER JURISDICTIONS LYING WHOLLY OR PARTLY WITHIN THE SAME.

The information contained in the following section of this report represents the fruit of visits (in the case of the larger offices many times repeated) to all departmental offices of the former municipalities of New York, Brooklyn, and Long Island City, and to the offices of New York, Kings, Queens, Westchester, and Richmond counties; and of continuous efforts, extending over a period of more than four months, to discover the records of the large number of towns and villages which have been annexed to the present city of New York at the different stages of its growth.<sup>1</sup> While it is true that municipal expansion and consolidation have resulted in the removal of many records from their original offices, in the destruction or loss of some, and in much present confusion, the preparation of this report, but for that process, would have been even more difficult than it has been, for the reason that consolidation has brought the records of several of the former towns and villages into central offices, where the examination of them is made relatively much easier. All the important records of Long Island City, for example, have now been brought together in a single office.

<sup>1</sup>In nearly every instance the work of investigation has been facilitated by the courtesy of officials, and the compiler wishes to express his obligation to them, and particularly to the officials in the office of the department of finance, for the generosity with which they have placed their time and the treasures of their offices at his disposal. Particular acknowledgment should also be made of the assistance of Mr. David McQueen, of the office of commissioner of records of Kings County, who prepared a part of the report on the records of that county.

The process, to be sure, has resulted for the moment in something of chaos, but if it shall result in bringing the records of extinct jurisdictions and the older records of the city departments into one repository and placing them under competent management, a decided advance will have been made.

The magnitude of the task and the limited time available must be the excuse for the imperfections of this report. The mass of the material to be examined was soon found to be too great to admit of the fuller description of the records which at first was intended. The records in the office of the comptroller, for example, might profitably have claimed all of the time which has been spent upon those of the city as a whole. It was not possible, in all cases, to obtain access even to the minute books of a department, and reliance had, therefore, to be placed on brief memoranda prepared in the office itself. The mass of filed papers, also, was, as a rule, found to be so great as to preclude detailed examination. The present report, therefore, aiming to give a brief running description of the records, indicative, as far as possible, of their general character, rather than a series of detailed lists, is not to be regarded as exhaustive or final, though every effort has been made to make its statements accurate so far as they go.

The history of the city as an institution of government is to be found in the records here passed in review. In them may be traced the administrative methods in vogue when the city was small and had a simple organization. Then it appropriated, collected, and expended its revenue, maintained its watch, its system of streets and ferries, supplied itself with water and protected itself against fires by means of a legislative assembly, a few officials, and committees. About the middle of the nineteenth century, owing to the increase of population and the growth in the magnitude of interests involved, the multiplication of city departments began. That process has continued till the present, resulting in a vast bureaucratic organization, controlling interests and expending a revenue which would have seemed fabulous to any resident of the city two generations ago. The history of any municipality, as such, consists of the record of its

development as an administrative organization, of the ways and means it has adopted to supply its needs as a municipality. These are its need for streets, water, police, prevention of fires, schools, parks, preservation of the public health, and the like. It is to secure these needs that municipalities are created, and the activities aroused in securing them—in rendering these services—constitute the life of municipalities as such. The study of the character and composition of the city's population should accompany that of its administrative organization, so that the social side of its development may be thrown into proper relief.

A comparison of the ideal just outlined with any of the so-called histories of New York City will show how little right they have to the titles they bear. They are in no proper sense histories of the city, but rather collections, not seldom ill-assorted, of miscellaneous facts, the most important and best digested of which belong to the history of the province or the Commonwealth rather than to that of the municipality. The notion of what a municipal history should be seems to have been but feebly grasped by the writers of these books. They have passed by the genuine records of the city's life in order to make room for entertaining gossip and descriptions of public pageants; and while the publication of such works steadily continues we still know little about the real history of the municipality. Yet it is obvious that any attempt to work through the history of the city as a whole, or of almost any department of it as contained in its documents, would be a task of great difficulty, because of the practical inaccessibility of the material. The records are the property of the people, and as such are legally and theoretically accessible to all; but the large number of offices among which they are scattered, the scanty accommodations provided for them, the lack of facilities for students, together with the positive neglect and even loss of the records themselves, make them for most practical purposes unavailable. The trouble, of course, is not so much with the official custodians as with the system under which they work and the wholly insufficient provision made by the law for the care of this class of material. With the enormous mass of papers now accumulated under the jurisdiction of the city

of New York, it is evident that nothing short of a radical change in the method of dealing with them will be sufficient to render them practically available for the purposes of historical or legal inquiry.

#### RECORDS OF THE FORMER CITY OF NEW YORK.

Attention must first be briefly called to those records which have survived from the Dutch period of its history. These are preserved in the office of the city clerk in the city hall. They consist of:

I. Six manuscript volumes in folio, containing the "Minutes of the burgomasters and schepens of New Amsterdam from 1653 to 1674," with a few entries preceding the earlier date. They were written wholly in Dutch till 1665; then they became the minutes of the mayor's court, Thomas Willett, mayor, and were written partly in English. During the months of Dutch reoccupation, 1673-74, they were once more written wholly in Dutch. In the main these records are well preserved. Some of the leaves in certain of the volumes are injured at the corners and edges, and words and clauses are missing; but leaves thus imperfect are comparatively few. Volume 1 begins with a series of ordinances of the director-general and council of New Netherland, occupying about 73 pages. Mr. O'Callaghan's translations of these was printed in 1868, under the title of "Laws and Ordinances of New Netherland." A translation of them also appears in "Records of New Amsterdam," volume 1. At the close of the ordinances begin the minutes of the burgomasters and schepens, the first entry being on February 6, 1653. These continue through the succeeding volumes to the close of the period. In volume 3 appear some administrative minutes or resolutions of the burgomasters alone, which fall between the dates of March, 1657, and January, 1661. The pages are, as a rule, written on both sides, the volumes containing between 300 and 400 pages each. These records have been translated into English. The ordinances and minutes to September, 1654, were first translated by Mr. Westbrook, but the work was poorly done. In 1848, by resolution of the common council, Dr. O'Callaghan was employed to translate the remaining five volumes. This he

did, and the translations are preserved with the original Dutch records. He also added some material from council records at Albany to illustrate how, in 1673, the English municipal system was abolished and the Dutch system restored. In 1897, under the title of "Records of New Amsterdam" (7 volumes) the minutes of the burgomasters and schepens and the administrative minutes were printed. For this edition Mr. Berthold Fernow prepared a new translation of the first manuscript volume, and revised O'Callaghan's translation of the rest.

II. Notarial records. Of these there are 10 volumes in the original, all except two being thin folios of 75 to 100 pages each. The other two are considerably larger. These records are not so well preserved as the minutes. The volumes, as they are now bound, bear the following binders' titles:

No. 1, Burgomasters and schepens, 1653-1675.

This volume is now kept with the court records, but is properly the first of the notarial series.

No. 2, Burgomasters and schepens, 1654-1660.

No. 3, Burgomasters and schepens, 1658-1660.

No. 4, Burgomasters and schepens, 1661-1663.

No. 5, Burgomasters and schepens, 1663-1665.

No. 6, Burgomasters and schepens, 1662-1664.

No. 8, Burgomasters and schepens, 1657-1661.

The largest volume in the series has the binder's title: "Original records of burgomasters, and orphan masters, surrogates." A thin folio contains a "Record of deeds, bonds, etc., of New Orange, 1671-1674."

Eight volumes of translations of the above records by O'Callaghan are also here. The titles of these are:

Vol. 1, Mortgages of lots and pieces of land in the city of New Amsterdam, 1654-1660.

This purports to be a translation of No. 2 of the foregoing list.

Vol. 2, Deeds and conveyances of real estate in the city of New Amsterdam, 1659-1665. 380 pp.

Vol. 3, same title as vol. 2, for the years 1654-1658. 311 pp.

In volumes 2 and 3 are translated the contents of No. 3 of the original Dutch series, and parts of Nos. 5 and 6.

Vol. 4, Register of Salomon Lachaire (La Chair), notary public of New Amsterdam, 1662-1664. 432 pp.

This contains a translation of volumes 4 and 8 of the original Dutch series, and also of a part of the records of the orphans' court.

Vol. 5, Register of Waleyn van der Veen, notary public of New Amsterdam, 1662-1664. 115 pp.

The original of this is in No. 6 of the Dutch series.

Vol. 6, Deeds and mortgages of lots and tracts of land in the city of New York and New Orange, 1664-1675. 233 pp.

This contains a translation of "Deeds and bonds of New Orange, 1671-1674," and of part of No. 5 of the original series."

Vol. 7, Powers of attorney, acknowledgments, indentures of apprenticeship, inventories, deeds, etc., 1651-1656. 185 pp.

This is a translation of No. 1 of the original series, marked "Burgomasters and schepens, 1653-1675."

Vol. 8, Minutes of the orphans' court of New Amsterdam from its erection in 1665 to 1668. 399 pp.

This is a translation of the larger part of the contents of the volume in Dutch, entitled "Records of burgomasters and orphan masters."

The Holland Society of New York has printed in its yearbook for 1900 71 folio pages of extracts in calendar form, from the original records of burgomasters, orphan masters, and surrogates, and from the registers of Salomon La Chair and Waleyn van der Veen. In its yearbook for 1901 the society hopes to publish an alphabetical index of all grantors and grantees, mortgagors and mortgagees, whose names appear in these records.

Coming now to the records of the city subsequent to the English conquest:

The originals of the Dongan<sup>1</sup> and Montgomerie charters have been deposited by the controller in the New York public library, and are now carefully preserved in the Lenox branch of that institution.

The most important single body of unprinted records relating to the history of New York as an English city, is the minutes of the common council, which are preserved in large ledgers in the office of the city clerk at the city hall. Of these there are 19 volumes, covering the period between October 17, 1675, at about which time English rule was finally established after the Dutch reoccupation, to May, 1831, when the printed minutes begin. No records appear for the period of occupation by the British during the Revolutionary war, when military government existed. The

<sup>1</sup>See Hist. Mag., VI, 375.



entries in volume 7 close with June 24, 1776, and those in volume 8 begin with February 10, 1784. The volumes on the average contain 500 pages each; volume 8, 606 pages. Those succeeding 1787 are smaller in size than the earlier volumes, but contain as many, or more, pages each. The journals were well kept throughout, the entries being clearly written and in the main very full. Each volume also is elaborately indexed. In this series will be found the essential facts connected with the administrative development of the city during the period which it covers. Volume 1 begins with the appointment and commission of the mayor, aldermen, and sheriff by Governor Andros. It contains also the oath of allegiance which was imposed upon the Dutch, and the orders for taking it in the city. In it will be found petitions and other material relating to the Dongan Charter, royal proclamations prohibiting trade with the East Indies and with coasts controlled by the African company, and proceedings during the period of the Leisler government. In the volumes generally appear the orders dividing the city into wards, for the choice of such city officers as were elective, for the opening, cleaning, and maintaining of order on the streets, for the regulation of the city watch, for the establishment of markets, fixing places for slaughterhouses, regulation of prices and of the various trades carried on in the city, care of the public lands, wells and pumps, water lots, ferries, dockage, anchorage, etc.; building and repair of bridges, of the city hall and other structures, retailing of liquor, protection against fires, levy of local rates, and the entire management of the city's finances; schools, the observance of the Sabbath, and the maintenance of order and morality within the city. The way in which the mayor, aldermen, and common council transacted their business, the use they made of committees, the extent to which authority centered in them, may be traced in these volumes. Some light also will be thrown by their contents on the office of recorder and on the judicial business of the city.

That at an early date provision should be made by the city for the careful editing and printing of this series of manuscript journals, goes almost without saying. A record so

important as this is should be made as accessible as possible to all who are interested in the history of the city.

The manuscript minutes of both aldermen and common council since 1831, all indexed, are deposited in the basement of the city hall, under the city library. A complete set of these minutes in printed form, with accompanying documents, is in the City Library.

In the office of the city clerk is also preserved a manuscript volume, entitled "Register of freemen of the city of New York." This contains a list of the names of all who were admitted as freemen of the city from September 29, 1683, to June 13, 1775, inclusive. The list is in the main chronological, being arranged by mayoralties. Its contents, together with additions for the Dutch period and for years subsequent to 1775, have been published by the New York Historical Society in volume 18 of its "Fund series."

In the vaults of the city hall, under the immediate charge of a subordinate of the city clerk, will be found the remainder of the records, containing the central thread of the city's history. These consist of record books and of files and bundles of papers. The record books were found by the writer indiscriminately heaped together in a large pile on the floor and covered with dust. Of the character of the books there accumulated he found no one who had the slightest knowledge. After examining the whole collection in some detail, he found its most valuable contents to be the following:

1. Minute books and correspondence of committees of the aldermen, the common council, or of joint committees of aldermen and council, kept during the first half of the nineteenth century. These are thin folios, and contain apparently so much as has been preserved of the records of the committees which performed special functions in city administration, and were thus the predecessors of the later city departments. The records are fragmentary, but valuable in spite of that. Among them are the minutes of the market committee, covering nearly the entire period from January, 1828, to May, 1844, in 16 thin folios.
2. The minutes of the committee on fire and water for a part of 1832, and from June, 1834, to March, 1838, in 5 thin folios; also the correspondence of the committee on fire and water from May, 1831, to May, 1833, in 2 folios. This body is referred to as a joint committee.

3. A large ledger containing an account of the proceedings of the health committee of the city during the prevalence of a malignant fever in 1798, with an account of donations then received from inhabitants of the city and State; to which is added a list of the names of the citizens who died of the fever in the city and its vicinity, with meteorological observations made during the same period. In the same book also are minutes of the health committee from June 7 to October 22, 1803. Another book contains a record of donations received by the executive committee of the board of health during the latter part of July, 1832. Still another contains minutes of the sanitary committee of the board of health, September, 1848-January, 1849, about 55 pages.
4. Minutes of the committee of both boards on police, watch, and prisons, while acting in relation to the watch, August 10, 1842, to March 10, 1843. About 50 pages. This contains an enrollment of the city watch.
5. Record of the ordinance creating the almshouse department, regulating the house of industry, and continuing the prison departments. undated. Twelve pages.
6. Minutes of the committee on lamps and gas, June 13, 1837, to May 2, 1839, and July 5, 1842, to December 15, 1843. Two folios.
7. Minutes of the committee of aldermen on assessments, July 3, 1840, to May 6, 1842.
8. Very fragmentary records of a committee on public offices and repairs, 1832 and 1837, and of a committee on laws, 1838<sup>1</sup>. A committee book of the common council, beginning in 1831, contains a list of its committees from 1831 to 1834. A large book contains a list of committees of aldermen from February, 1837, to December, 1844.
9. Various minute books of the board of city canvassers during the years 1857-1859, as also minute books of the court of general sessions for the year 1837 and thereabouts.
10. Another volume, an index, contains lists of the names of measurers of grain, of lime, of lumber, of charcoal, of American coal, inspectors of measures, city weighers, city gaugers, wood inspectors, weighers of anthracite coal, city surveyors, street inspectors, clerks of the markets, street commissioners, collectors of assessments, and registers of dogs. These lists fall between 1825 and 1842.
11. An index to the riot claims to January 1, 1864.
12. A printed "Memoir on the construction, cost, and capacity of the Croton aqueduct, with an account of the civic celebration on the completion of the works, October 14, 1842; compiled from original documents."

<sup>1</sup>The writer was unable, in the time at his command, to ascertain in all cases to what body the above committees belonged, and hence he leaves that point unsettled.

13. Many license books of hackney coaches were found, bearing dates early in the century (1817, etc.). At later dates appear license books of cabs, stagecoaches, etc. A list of licensed dealers in second-hand articles (1828-1840), and another of licensed pawnbrokers (1825-1840) are here. A thick ledger contains a list of butchers holding stalls in the city markets from 1838 to 1854.
14. The rough minutes of the George Washington Monument Association, September, 1833, to February, 1835.
15. Records of cases of blind persons applying for outdoor relief, June, 1866, collected by visitors of outdoor poor under the department of charities and corrections.
16. Volumes 1, 3, 8, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14 (MS.) of the ordinances, resolutions, etc., passed by the board of aldermen and board of assistants, and approved by the mayor, at intervals between July, 1831, and May, 1846. These also exist in print.
17. A large body of rough minutes of common council and aldermen and manuscript indexes to their journals, all of dates subsequent to 1831, when the printing of the minutes began.
18. Minutes of testimony taken in reference to illegal voting in November, 1842, showing that convicts were released from Blackwells Island at that time in order that they might vote. This record is fragmentary.
19. A thick quarto record book entitled "Memoranda of the Democratic-Republican caucus, New York, April 21, 1838, to May 9, 1842." The caucus appears to have been organized by the Democratic members of the common council. The volume of its minutes is considerable and should be interesting.

The papers on file and in bundles in these rooms are voluminous and of great importance for the history of the city since 1831. Three hundred and eighty-six patent metal files are filled with original papers of the aldermen and common council between 1831 and December, 1897. They comprise petitions to those bodies, reports of their committees, resolutions, ordinances, returns of delinquents on assessments, etc. The papers are very numerous, and presumably few, if any, of them appear in full in the early volumes of the printed minutes, while in later years a large proportion of them would probably have failed to find their way into print. To illustrate their extent:

File 1 contains what has survived for the months of May, July, September, and October, 1831.

File 2 contains December, 1831, January and February, 1832.

File 3 contains March, April, and June, 1832.

File 4 contains July, August, October, and November, 1832.

File 5 contains January, February, and March, 1833.

File 6 contains April, May, and June, 1833, etc.

Many of the files contain the papers of only two months, some of three, others of as many as six. After reaching 1850, the bulk of the papers greatly increases.

Besides the papers thus filed, there are 22 bins filled with loose papers and papers in bundles, wholly unassorted, thrown together in the most careless fashion, covered thickly with dust. Some of these belong to dates prior to 1830, but most of them apparently relate to the period since 1840. Though the writer lacked both the time and the strength to examine this mass of papers, he saw among them minutes of aldermen and council, reports of committees, petitions, financial statements, etc. It is said by officials in charge that they relate wholly to matters never acted on, and to unfinished business; but a cursory examination would indicate that this is not the case, but that papers of all kinds to which business, both finished and unfinished, gave rise, may be found in this mass. Apparently these papers are needed to complete the files just referred to.

Some papers belonging to dates since the beginning of 1898, are also filed here.

The foregoing exhibit completes the list of the records now in existence in the city hall. They are of a more or less general character, and are the immediate product of the activity of the legislative body of the city—the mayor, aldermen, and common council.

#### DEPARTMENTAL RECORDS.

Rudiments of a departmental organization existed from an early date. A distinct department of finance was perhaps the earliest to develop. But the period since 1850 has been chiefly distinguished in New York, as well as in other municipalities, by an increase in the volume of business which has led to a large multiplication of departments and bureaus. Reference will now be made, in more or less general terms, to the department records of the former city of New York, as they are at present preserved in the various offices of the city.

#### OFFICE OF THE CONTROLLER.

This throughout its existence has been the auditing office of the city. All the financial records of historical importance have originated in it or have passed from the cham-

berlain's office into its files, and will now be found in large volumes in its various record rooms. These rooms are at present located in the Stewart Building and on the upper floor of the county court-house. In Room 10 of the Stewart Building are deposited the older ledgers and journals of the city chamberlains, in large volumes, the earliest ones bound in vellum, all finely kept and well preserved. The periods covered by the several volumes are as follows:<sup>1</sup>

Ledger No. 1, May, 1691, to Oct., 1700.

Ledger No. 2, Nov., 1700, to May, 1760.

Ledger No. 3, June, 1760, to Oct., 1772.

Ledger A, Dec., 1783, to Sept., 1794.

Ledger B, Sept., 1794, to Aug., 1809.

Journal No. 1 appears to be missing.

Journal No. 2, Oct., 1706, to Oct., 1736.

Journal No. 3, Oct., 1736, to June, 1767.

Journal No. 4, June, 1767, to Oct., 1772.

Journal A, Dec., 1783, to Sept., 1794.

Journal B, Sept., 1794, to Aug., 1809.

While the ledgers show the balances of the city's accounts, the entries in the journals throw more light on the sources of its receipts and the objects of its expenditures. In them will be found in abundance entries of receipts from the rent of land and docks, from licenses issued to innkeepers, and from taxes. Entries of expenditures were noted for repairing the city hall, building streets, wharves, and bridges; for salaries and printing; for bonfires on great occasions, fees for the bellman, etc. The journals are books second in value only to the records in the city hall, and are of importance for the light they throw not only on the fiscal system of the city, but on many phases of its life. They should be studied in connection with the minutes of the common council.

In this room also are four old tax or assessment books, bound in vellum, which belong, respectively, to the dates 1699-1702, 1702-1709, 1709-1721, 1721-1734. In these the names of all persons assessed are entered, with a statement of the property of each and the amount of his assessment. The first assessment which appears was on real and personal estates for the purpose of raising £400, under an act of

<sup>1</sup>See Hist., Mag., VI, 375, 378.

assembly, to pay the debts of the city and repair its public buildings. The levy was made by wards, pursuant to directions issued by the mayor, recorder, and aldermen. In this and all the other assessments which appear in these volumes the names are arranged by wards—East ward, North ward, West ward, South ward, Dock ward. As the lists are long, the books would be most valuable for determining the names of residents and freeholders, the approximate amounts of their property, and such changes in residence and property as came with lapse of time.

Series of ledgers and journals, with lettering or numbering which varies from time to time, continue down to the present. Some of these are marked "City and county of New York." In this room 60 such volumes, most of them of the largest size, are stored.

The financial records of the city, which fill four rooms in the upper story of the county court-house (the annex to the record room), are so voluminous and of such character that only general reference can here be made to them. They consist of filed papers and record books. Of the papers the most important class are the A, B, and C vouchers. The A vouchers are those which have been paid from appropriations, while the B vouchers have been paid from the proceeds of the sale of bonds. The C vouchers were issued in connection with work on the new Croton aqueduct. The A vouchers in these rooms run from 1750 to the beginning of 1886; the B vouchers begin in 1870 and extend to the beginning of 1886; the C vouchers begin in 1884 and run to the beginning of 1886. In another room in the basement of the Stewart Building (Read street entrance) are stored the A, B, and C vouchers from 1886 to 1896. In still another room in the basement of the Stewart Building are the vouchers of the same three classes from the beginning of 1896 to the beginning of 1900, while additions, especially to the first two classes, are being constantly made and with great rapidity. Series of A, B, and C warrants also exist in these rooms corresponding to the three classes of vouchers. The series of A warrants begins in 1794 and, with a break from the close of 1829 till early in 1832, and thereafter with the exception, so far as noticed, of the year 1874, runs through to 1886. The

B warrants begin in 1841 and extend to 1875, when a break occurs to the end of 1878, from which time they run to 1884. C warrants for 1884 and 1885 are in the annex to the record room.

In the other record rooms are many warrants of all classes for later dates, but whether the several series are all complete the writer can not positively state. The vouchers and warrants just referred to constitute the most voluminous class of records to be found in any of the city departments. The A vouchers alone number far up into the thousands for each of the recent years of their issue. For example, in 1885 about 30,000 of them were issued. B vouchers for 1885 numbered 3,052. C vouchers are much fewer, numbering for 1885 946. At the present time the numbers in the first two classes are much larger than fifteen years ago, while in 1885 they far exceeded the number annually accumulating at the close of the first third of the century. Their multiplication affords a rough index of the growth of the city's business.

Pay rolls in large numbers and relating to many classes of employees during recent years are also here. Arranged on shelves in one of the rooms are many bundles of canceled certificates of water stock and loans, fire-insurance stock, building loans, city bonds, and revenue bonds of all varieties and denominations and representing transactions involving almost fabulous sums, extending from 1816 down close to the present time. Shelves about 30 feet in length along the side of one of these rooms and rising from floor to ceiling are packed full of labeled bundles of documents of a very miscellaneous character. These are arranged by years, beginning with 1800 and extending to 1876. Material of similar character from 1877 to 1885 has been placed in boxes. In these bundles and boxes are to be found, e. g., building accounts, returns of moneys received by the various courts in the city, returns of inspectors, surveyors, and public administrators, returns from markets, disbursements of street commissioners, almshouse expenditures, contingent expenses of public departments, election expenses, muster and pay rolls of regiments serving through the draft riots of 1863, returns of the clerk of arrears, of the receiver



of taxes, of the collector of assessments, of mayor's marshal, etc. There are also 27 bundles of leases of water lots and buildings, etc., made by the city. The earliest document among them is a rent roll of water lots beginning in 1734. The first bundle contains many valuable leases prior to 1800. The leases in the other bundles bear dates between 1800 and 1864.

Among the papers in this room may also be found abstracts of assessments for street cleaning, 1824-1828; abstracts of assessments for wells and pumps, 1824-1847; volumes of accounts audited, 1808-1876; packages of accounts current of the almshouse, 1824-1850; accounts paid, 1788-1798; 1 volume of annual rents, 1819-1821; 3 volumes of appropriations, 1830-1844; various volumes of returns of arrears of taxes, 1821-1840; 57 volumes relating to sales of property for unredeemed assessments, 1820-1838; to assessments for streets, 1824-1852; to assessments for street openings, paving, etc., 1828-1857 and 1874-1878; 3 volumes of minutes of the board of assessors, 1830-1840; 43 packages of surety bonds of sheriffs, marshals, and a variety of other officials, ranging from 1747 to 1852; 22 packages of papers, vouchers, returns, etc., of the board of health, ranging from 1832 to 1882; 48 volumes of cash books of the city treasurer and other related material, between the dates 1819 and 1876; 1 package of certificates of remission of rents, 1788; 7 volumes relating to expenditures for Central Park, 1856-1858; 12 volumes of collectors' returns, 1840-1848; 9 packages of accounts of the new city hall, 1804-1813; 11 packages of papers relating to the Croton aqueduct, 1841-1875; 38 packages and some 55 volumes of papers and accounts of the city chamberlain, the papers ranging from 1855 to 1873 and the books from 1803 to 1852; 20 packages of sundry papers of the city chamberlain, 1871-1879; 19 volumes of the journal of the city treasury, of the superintendent of streets, public administrator, etc., ranging from 1784 to 1878; many packages and volumes of leases extending from 1750 to 1848; and very much other material, for reference to which there is not space in this report. Investigation is facilitated by the entries in a manuscript volume now kept in Room 8 of the Stewart Building, entitled "Record room register, I,"

which is an index to the above material. Among the collections in this place, and in rooms in the Stewart Building, are many letter books of the controllers, one series, 10 volumes, extending from 1871 to 1881. In a room in the basement of the Stewart Building are ten other official and semi-official letter books of New York City (controller, public works, etc.), extending from 1871 to 1881.

OFFICE OF THE CITY ENGINEER.

In the office of the city engineer (Room 55, Stewart Building) are records and maps of great value relating to the land system of the city. A series of ledgers, lettered from A to K and containing from 400 to upward of 600 pages each, is filled with entries of grants made by the city. Of these, Liber A contains grants from 1686 to 1701; Liber B, 1701 to 1752; Liber C, 1752 to 1769; Liber D, 1769 to 1787; Liber E, 1792 to 1806; Liber F, 1809 to 1818; Liber G, 1818 to 1827; Liber H, 1827 to 1852; Liber I, 1852 to 1871; Liber K, 1871 to 1897. The earliest grant in the regular series of entries in Liber A is dated November 17, 1686, and is a deed for two lots of ground in Smith's Fly, transferred to George Heathcote. The grant is entered in the form of a letter patent: "To all Christian people to whom this present writing shall come. The mayor, aldermen, and commonalty of the city of New York send greeting: Know ye that for and in consideration of the sum of thirty pounds current money of the said city to the said mayor, aldermen, and commonalty in hand paid" by Heathcote before the sealing and delivery of the grant, "They the said mayor, aldermen, and commonalty of the city of New York aforesaid have granted," etc., "unto the said George Heathcote" the plot of ground then bounded and described. The rent was one peppercorn, and the document provided for the issue at Heathcote's expense of other conveyance, enfeoffment, or deed of release in confirmation of this grant, provided the said mayor and aldermen were not compelled to travel out of the city of New York in order to do the same. The grant was signed by Nicholas Bayard, mayor. This form of deed continued in use till 1692, when the briefer form, "This indenture witnesseth," was substituted for the earlier words of greeting.

The grants in this book and the succeeding one, to 1734, are for tracts of land more or less remote from the shore, and for which only a nominal rent was charged. In 1734 the grants, or permanent leases, of water lots begin to appear, and on these annual rents payable in money were assessed. About 350 folios of Liber B are filled with entries of this kind. Grants of water lots far exceed all others from 1735 to the early years of the nineteenth century. About the middle of the eighteenth century the water lots began to be numbered, and additions to them were granted. Gradually grants of this kind extended up the shore on both sides of the island, to the East ward, the Dock ward, the Out ward, etc. In 1720 and again in 1750 the lease of lands for city slaughter-houses occupies a prominent place. In 1734 a lot was granted on Turtle Bay to Capt. Robert Long of H. M. S. *Seaford*, to be used as a place for careening the King's ships of war. April 30, 1767, is the earliest lease of a ferry which has been noted in these volumes. Jacob Van Voorhis was the grantee, and his ferry was to ply between New York and Paulus Hook. The grant was for four years, at an annual rent of £10. Leases of water lots and of ferries now became an important source of city revenue. In Liber C, about the date 1766, are long and interesting entries concerning the purchase by the Presbyterian Church of the triangular lot of land "on the common," where now stands the "Times" building. About the beginning of the nineteenth century entries of maps and plans of lots begin to appear, and these form an increasingly important part of the record as time advances. The office has a manuscript alphabetical index, and also a location index, of the water grants contained in the above books. Another manuscript volume entitled "Abstracts of Water Grants" gives the conditions of these grants in outline. These indexes will be found very useful by students of the land system of the city. Three atlases of water grants are here, the largest of which contains maps of those on Hudson River which were uncommuted June 19, 1838. The other two volumes cover East River grants which were uncommuted in 1839. Full information as to location and extent of grants is to be found in these, and in some cases the commutations are entered.

In the engineer's office material will also be found relating to the common lands of Manhattan Island. A large book entitled "Common Lands," contains printed indentures of conveyance of lots from the common lands of the city on the payment of purchase money and quit rents. The earliest grant recorded in this book bears date October 20, 1796, but not till May, 1799, did entries regularly begin. The entries in this volume fall mostly within the years 1799 and 1800, but some appear as late as 1806 and 1810. The purchase price is always given in money, but quit rents are made payable annually in kind or money. As these were conveyances in fee, the quit-rent system which existed within the city appears to have been substantially the same as that which prevailed throughout the royal and proprietary provinces. Soon after the beginning of the nineteenth century the process of commuting quit rents began. This went on steadily in territory which had been granted from the common lands of the city, and was also extended in many cases to the rent due from water lots. Lump sums were in these cases accepted by the city in discharge of all and every rent or rents which should in future become due. The dates and fact of such commutations are generally entered in the grant books (Lifers A, B, and C) above referred to, but a record of them in the form of quit-claim deeds and releases also appears in some other volumes in the office. The entries in these volumes fall between 1812 and 1896.

Eight large books contain the records of city property sold by the commissioners of the sinking fund between 1844 and the present time. Lifers A, B, C, and D, extending to 1896 and entitled "Deeds to the Corporation," contain records of sales of land at auction, under proceedings in chancery, for debts and arrears due the city, and the deeds in favor of the city which were issued by the masters in chancery who held the sales. The series also contains deeds of land voluntarily sold to the city.

Another large book, undated but prepared about 1886, contains a list of the real estate then belonging to the city. Its contents are valuable.

The original and authoritative "Map of the common lands belonging to the city of New York March 1, 1796,"

by Goerek, is in this office. As streets through these lands were not then laid out, only the numbers of lots are given on the map. The grants which at that time had been made from the common lands are indicated. The ungranted lands then extended northward from about Twenty-fifth street. A bound volume entitled "Adjustment of boundary lines of common lands" is in the office, which is said to have been prepared about 1836. It is partly filled with colored maps of such lands, then existing, above Forty-second street and between Second and Seventh avenues. These maps are not official. An index shows that the office possesses more than 150 official maps and charts of corporation property in all locations—of islands, parks, common lands, and of the Croton aqueduct; plans of slips, docks, piers, bulkheads, markets, hospitals, and sewers. The topography of the city, in many of its features and during all the later stages of its growth, is set forth in these plans.

The original concessions to the city by private parties of lands needed for the opening of streets, or for the widening or straightening of the same, are here, and are indexed. They exist in large numbers and are arranged in two series, the former beginning about 1694 and closing in 1840, the latter extending from 1840 to the present time.

In this office, also, is a considerable body of material relating to the early history of the ferries of New York. Of special interest in this connection is the original patent (and the warrant for its issue) of Governor Cornbury, granting to New York City all the vacant and unappropriated lands on Nassau Island from high to low water mark, fronting on the city of New York and extending from Wallabout to Red Hook, with power to establish one or more ferries within the specified limits and to make orders for the due regulation of the same. The old ferry, with its appurtenances, also went with the grant. A bundle of 21 old ferry leases, issued at various dates between April 25, 1805, and May 3, 1839, is in the safe in this room. They relate to a number of the ferries in the lower part of the city. Of special interest is the lease, dated April 16, 1811, of the Powles (Paulus) Hook Ferry (Cortlandt street), for eighteen years, to Robert R. Livingston, Robert Fulton, and others,

representing The Steamboat Ferry Company. The rent was fixed at \$3,000 per year. Steamboats were to be put on by May 1, 1812, or as much earlier as possible, the specifications concerning these, as well as regarding wharves, rates of ferrriage, etc., making the contract long and detailed. Other and much older ferry leases are preserved in bundles in Room 8 of the Stewart Building. Among these are conditions for farming the ferry to Nassau Island, 1712; other conditions for ferries for 1707, 1714, 1717, 1722, 1723, 1727, 1728, and 1737 are also here. In the same bundles are several conditions for farming docks and slips and leases of market stalls, belonging to dates early in the eighteenth century. A few orders of the governor and council and of the mayor and aldermen, issued in the seventeenth century, prescribing rates of wharfage and anchorage, are in this collection; also many sheriffs' bonds and a large number of bills presented to the vestry and corporation of the city for the digging of wells and the setting and repair of pumps, all of these dating from the eighteenth century.

In passing now to the consideration of the records of the more recently developed departments of the city, it is only necessary to state that their archives, so far as they have been preserved, are in the several departmental offices. More detailed reference to the location of these offices, therefore, will not be necessary.

#### POLICE DEPARTMENT.

A police department was first established in New York in 1845, but the writer has as yet been able to find only a few of its records prior to its reorganization, under the name of the department of metropolitan police, in 1857. A complete set of minute books of the board exists from that date to the present. Eleven volumes of these precede 1870. Then the department was again reorganized and a new series was begun which, in 24 volumes, carries the record of the board to the beginning of 1898. These minutes have been neatly kept in large ledgers of from 550 to 600 pages each. All are carefully indexed. Since the publication of the City Record began, in 1872, it has been the practice of the department to print its minutes. Extensive files of papers are also kept in the office, containing vouchers,

return checks, etc. These are said to be complete from 1870, while in some cases files run back to 1857. Pay rolls of the department exist from 1857. Pay rolls and other records of the department of street cleaning during the years 1872-1881, while the police had charge of it, are still in the custody of the police department. Correspondence has in large measure been preserved since the origin of the department. Reports on leave of absence exist from 1860 to date; time books, containing a record of all time lost by members of the force, for whatever cause, have been kept from October, 1857, to date; and morning returns from the various precincts exist in complete form from December, 1848, to the present. Reports of surgeons on the health of the uniformed force exist from 1869 and earlier. The surgeon's record of the physical qualifications of candidates for the force, with reasons for the rejection of those who were unsatisfactory, are here from 1868 to date. The record of the disposition of the pension fund is on file since April, 1868. The record kept of suspicious places in the city from 1858 to the present time, and the record of persons arrested, from June 29, 1845, to date, are also to be found. Elaborate criminal statistics have been compiled from this record, showing the number of arrests by days, months, and quarters, and by precincts; the causes of arrests, the nationality, sex, age, social condition, degree of education, and occupation of the persons arrested. These exist in manuscript volumes in the record room of the department. A record also is preserved there of lost children brought to headquarters from the precincts since 1862; of persons found dead and not identified, since 1860; of accidents from 1865 to date; of violations of city ordinances from 1864 to the present time. The records of the department are elaborate, and, so far at least as external form is concerned, appear to be full and carefully kept.

#### FIRE DEPARTMENT.

In their extent and character the records of the fire department resemble those of the police department. Minute books exist since the organization of the metropolitan fire department in 1865, at which time the volunteer force became a paid force. Three minute books contain the

proceedings of the board from May, 1865, to April, 1870. Then the metropolitan department was succeeded by the New York fire department, and a new series of books was begun. Twenty-three volumes of this series had been completed when the new city charter went into effect in 1898. Each of these volumes is of the ordinary size, and contains about 600 pages. A part of them are well indexed. As the department is now single-headed, its general records are known as "transactions," and since the beginning of 1898 have all been printed in the City Record. The letter books of the department have been preserved since 1870, and nearly all are indexed. Letters constitute an especially important part of the records of this department, because of the multitudinous complaints which come in to it. A series of special-order books, from 1870 to date, contains orders for fines, appointments of all kinds, retirements, dismissals, and suspensions. A like series of general-order books contains orders affecting either the whole force or a large part thereof, issued by the chief of the department under direction of the commissioners, and relating to such matters as meal hours, vacations, transfers, uniforms, discipline, etc. The bureaus within the department all issue general orders. A roll of merit is kept in the commissioner's office, containing a record of rescues made by members of the uniformed force. Records of trials of members of the force are also kept on file. There is also a series of books containing the names of all members of the force, the dates of their appointment, a physical description of them, and the results of the surgeons' examinations. Relief fund and insurance fund records are also preserved, as in the police department. Records are also kept of fires, defective flues, combustibles stored in violation of law, and obstructed fire escapes.

#### METROPOLITAN BOARD OF HEALTH.

Minute books of the metropolitan board of health in private executive sessions begin September 14, 1869, and continue in upward of 20 volumes of approximately 400 pages each to the present time. Another series of minute books for public sessions begins March 2, 1866, and continues in 5 volumes to July 26, 1871. No volumes of this



nature appear subsequent to the last-mentioned date. From April, 1866, to April, 1870, the board of health was, by a law regulating the sale of intoxicating liquors within the metropolitan district, constituted a board of excise. Two volumes of minutes of this board of excise are here. The first, of 483 pages, begins when the board was organized (April 20, 1866), and the second, of 95 pages, closes April 9, 1870. A large body of records of births, marriages, and deaths is also kept in this office. The earliest of these records were kept by the city inspectors' department, whose books and files in 1866 were turned over to the board of health. A few records of births have been preserved for 1847-48. None exist from 1848 to July, 1853, but from the last date they continue without break till the present time. The same is true of the record of marriages. The earliest records of deaths in the office belong to the years 1800-1804. None exist from 1804 to 1812. From 1812 to the present they continue in unbroken series. No records of vital statistics of the city prior to the dates just mentioned are known to exist. Till the beginning of 1888 the record contained upon the original certificates of births, marriages, and deaths was copied into books, called registers, and the originals were filed. Both registers and files are in the office. Belonging to the period of the city inspectors' department are 14 registers of births, 7 of marriages, and 43 of deaths. Between the establishment of the board of health in 1866 and the beginning of 1888 the records filled 40 registers of births, 23 of marriages, and 56 of deaths, each of these, save a few of the earlier ones, containing about 15,000 entries.

Since the beginning of 1888 the original certificates have been bound in volumes of 500 each, and the process of filing has ceased. Index volumes to the registers are also in the office, and an index of the names in each year's bound volumes of certificates is printed annually.

#### BOARD OF EDUCATION.

The early history of public education in New York City receives its best illustration from the records of the New York Public School Society. These, so far as they have been preserved, are deposited with the New York Historical

Society. The Public School Society was organized under a law of 1805 and continued in existence until 1853, when it was united with the board of education. The records of the Public School Society consist of (1) the subscription book, beginning, "We the subscribers promise to pay on demand to the treasurer of the New York Free School Society the sums affixed by us opposite to our respective names." De Witt Clinton headed the list with a subscription of \$200. The list fills about 17 pages of a record book of small quarto size. (2) The minute books of the trustees of the society. Of these No. 1 appears to be lacking. Nos. 2, 3, 4, and 5 are here and contain entries from May 15, 1817, to December 17, 1852. There is also a final volume, apparently a copy of No. 5, with a continuation of minutes to the last meeting of the society, July 22, 1853. All these books are of ordinary ledger size, with from 400 to 500 pages each. (3) A number of smaller books of quarto size. Of these three are minutes of the executive committee of the society. The first of these books does not appear here, but Nos. 2, 3, and 4 contain entries from December 1, 1836, to July 21, 1853. Two similar volumes contain the minutes of the primary school committee from May, 1832, when it was established by the trustees, to 1853. The other documents of the society consist of bundles of papers and treasurers' books.

In 1842 a board of education for the city was organized, and for eleven years this board and the Public School Society carried on their work side by side. In 1853 the Public School Society ceased to exist, and since that time the public school system has been managed through a board of education. The important records of this body are all in print. Two printed volumes of minutes and documents between the dates 1842 and the close of 1853 exist, while since 1853 the reports of the board have been published in one continuous series of volumes, and its minutes in another series. Minutes and reports have to a large extent also been printed in the City Record. All original papers since about 1857 are on file.

#### BOARD OF PUBLIC CHARITIES AND CORRECTION.

The extant series of minute books of the board of public charities and correction begins January 2, 1869. The

department, however, was established in 1860. Hence minutes for the years 1860 to 1869 are to be noted as lacking in the office of the present department of public charities. The minutes are kept in thin books, each covering a half year or a little more. There are 109 of these volumes, extending to March, 1899. The commissioners met very frequently, at times nearly every day. It is positively stated at the office that all original papers have been kept on file, under an appropriate classification, since 1885. Many papers of earlier dates are also here, but it is probable that some have been destroyed, especially by a fire which occurred some years ago at the storehouse. An old ledger remains, of a date much earlier than the creation of the present department. It is entitled "Weekly reports and minutes of commissioners of the almshouse, Bellevue Hospital and Bridewell." Entries in it extend from April 25, 1829, to August 30, 1844. The volume is also about half filled with accounts. If it could be brought into connection with certain records now deposited in the record room of the controller's office its meaning, as well as the meaning of those papers, might be made clearer.

#### DEPARTMENT OF DOCKS AND FERRIES.

The department of docks and ferries was organized in May, 1870. Its minutes are all in print. Since 1872 they have been regularly printed in the City Record. All original papers are preserved in the office, and on these entries in the minutes are based. In the engineer's bureau connected with this department is a large collection of maps and plans of the water front of New York City. Among unpublished maps special importance attaches to Smith's map (dated 1837) of the water front from West Eleventh street to West One Hundred and Thirty-fifth street. The records of the survey which was made in 1871 of the water front on both sides of the city from Sixty-first street to the Battery are here. The original records of surveys which are preserved in this office begin with this survey. Since then many partial surveys have been made, and the maps to which they have given rise are filed in the office.

## DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS.

No manuscript records have been found of the former department of public works, save its letter books, which are in the possession of the present department of highways. The department of public works was formed in 1870 by the consolidation of the Croton Aqueduct Commission and the department of streets, and continued in existence until 1898. The Croton Aqueduct Commission was created in July, 1849. Its minute book, beginning at that date and continuing till the commission was merged in the department of public works, has survived, and is now in the office of the general bookkeeper of the department of water supply. Reports of the department of public works were regularly printed in the City Record, and a nearly complete set of its annual reports is in the possession of the present department of water supply. The departments whose heads under the charter of 1897 form the board of public improvements—i. e., water supply, highways, street cleaning, sewers, public buildings, lighting and supplies, and bridges—and which are outgrowths from the former department of public works, print all their transactions which are of importance.

## DEPARTMENT OF BUILDINGS.

In April, 1862, a department for the survey and inspection of buildings was organized, with a superintendent at its head. It continued thus till August, 1880, when it was made a bureau in the fire department. It remained in this form till June, 1892, when a separate department of buildings was organized, which still continues. Annual reports have been printed regularly since the organization of this department. Since 1873 also reports have been printed at intervals in the City Record. In 1866 the filing of plans for buildings began, and all that have been filed since that time are preserved in the office. Records of violations of the building laws are also kept. As this has always been a single-headed department, no minute books have been kept. A large number of letter books, however, have been preserved.

## CORPORATION COUNSEL.

The records in the office of the corporation counsel begin with 1857. Before that time the officials at the head of this department did the legal business of the city in their own offices, and hence no records of those times, save a few straggling registers, have been preserved. In the office at present are preserved manuscript and typewritten copies of the opinions of the corporation counsel since about 1857. Some of these opinions have been printed in the City Record, but that practice was not found to work well. At the present time, copies are considered as, to an extent, confidential, and are not allowed to go out of the office. The only other class of records kept here are the files of "done suits" and of pending suits. The papers connected with these are said to have been preserved since 1857, and are on file in the office.

## THE RECORDS OF THE FORMER CITY OF BROOKLYN.

In the office of the city clerk, Borough Hall, the following records of Brooklyn are deposited:

1. Manuscript records of the town and village of Brooklyn, so far as they are now accessible. These consist of 4 volumes of minutes of the trustees of the village and 1 volume of town records. Volume 1 of the village minutes begins May 14, 1816, and continues to September 16, 1825, 381 pp., folio. On the reverse are also recorded 80 pages of "laws" (i. e., ordinances) of the village respecting a variety of matters of local police, etc., issued between May 6, 1816, and September 25, 1826. A ledger found among the records of Williamsburg contains ordinances of the village of Brooklyn from March 7, 1827, to November 19, 1833, 71 pp. Volume 2 continues the minutes of the trustees from September 23, 1825, to August 31, 1829, 540 pp. Volume 3 continues the same from September 14, 1829, to December 30, 1833. Volume 4 completes the record to May 20, 1834, when Brooklyn became a city. The volume marked "Town Records" contains about 50 pages of minutes of various town meetings held between 1824 and 1834. On a few of

the reverse pages of this volume are the reports of the canvassers of a general election held in Brooklyn in November, 1828.

2. Records of the legislative department of the city of Brooklyn. The earliest minutes of the common council of the city of Brooklyn are entered in the fourth volume of the village minutes. They are then continued, in a series of 88 manuscript volumes, to October, 1892. These volumes are all large folios, and are indexed. The minutes since October, 1892, have not been copied into books, but are still in the original rough form. The entire series, however, since 1854 has been printed under the title "Proceedings of the Board of Aldermen." There is also a distinct series of manuscript reports of committees, filling 31 folio volumes and extending from 1845 to 1894.

In this room also are a large number of bundles of papers, beginning in 1834, the date of the organization of the city government, and extending nearly or quite to 1890. These contain communications from all sources to the common council—petitions, proposals for contracts, reports from committees and from city departments, justices' returns, etc. This is the material a part of which, since 1876, has been printed in the series of "documents" accompanying the proceedings of the common council. Of special value, however, are the papers prior to 1876, and all others which have not found their way into print. The substance of many of these papers will also be found in the minutes of the common council. These bundles fill five large cases, closely packed.

In this office, but stored with the records of Williamsburg, is a ledger containing special ordinances of the city of Brooklyn from May 30, 1836, to February 8, 1847, 276 pp. Another ledger contains general ordinances of the city of Brooklyn from May 11, 1847, to June 16, 1856, 150 pp. Still another is filled with copies of letters and other communications from city officers to the common council; these begin with January, 1855, and continue to April, 1857, 608 pp.

In the vault of Borough Hall are stored great quantities of records which have been brought together from the

offices of the finance department of the former city. They belong for the most part to the period between 1860 and 1897, though occasionally documents of earlier dates appear. Both files of papers and books are here in great numbers. The files contain vouchers, abstracts, and warrants under "general fund" and "special fund" heads; pay rolls; returns of the police and excise departments, of dock masters, of the city clerk, city court, and fire department; schedules of taxes received, of assessments, of arrears of water rates; receipts for street openings; assessments for gas lamps and posts; for grading, paving, and flagging. A very large number of books are filled with salary warrants of the various city departments since 1870. Many receipt books of "general fund" and "special fund" also appear from about 1860 down, together with general cash books, day books, and ledgers, and books of accounts for streets, sewers, and parks. Books of contracts, warrants for expenses of election officers, and many assessment rolls (1874-1878) are also included. In volume and contents these records are such as are characteristic of all great modern municipalities. At present they are stored in a dark vault, and are not arranged in any order, either of date or subject. In the office of the controller in Manhattan is also a considerable quantity of ledgers, journals, and other account books relating to the financial business of Brooklyn between about 1870 and 1897.

#### DEPARTMENT OF CITY WORKS.

In the office of the city clerk, Borough Hall, are deposited the minutes of the former department of city works. These begin with the organization of that board in 1869 and continue to the close of 1897. They fill about 37 large ledger volumes of 500 pages each. All are carefully copied, and each volume is supplied with an index. The rough minutes from which they were copied are in the office of the present department of water supply in the municipal building. The business transacted by the department of public works was large and important. It had control of water, sewers, street opening, street cleaning, and street improvement, together with the purchasing of supplies and award of contracts for

nearly all other departments. Its jurisdiction corresponded in general to that of the present board of public improvements of New York City. Its letter books from 1894 to the close of 1897 are in the office of the present department of water supply. The files of original papers which appear with the minute books are few and apparently of little value. Whether or not they were kept with care was not learned. It is stated that some of the original files, when the present charter went into effect, were distributed among the officers who constitute the existing board of public improvements; but their existence in those offices has not been traced.

All maps and plans of streets, blocks, squares, etc., of the city from the time of its incorporation are in the map room of the engineer's office, municipal building. This office is now connected with the department of highways.

#### POLICE DEPARTMENT.

The only records of the police department found were five minute books of the usual size, which are now deposited in the central office of police in Manhattan. The entries in these books begin May 2, 1870, and close December 31, 1897.

#### BOARD OF HEALTH.

In the office of the health department will be found the records of the Brooklyn board of health. These consist of vital statistics and of the minute books and papers of the board. A record of deaths has been preserved since 1847, of marriages and births since May, 1866. From 1847 to the close of 1872 a copy of the record of deaths was kept in books. For the years 1854 to 1856 the record appears in the form of burial permits; for the other years the record of death is definitely given. Name, date, residence, disease, sex, place of burial, and name of physician are the entries appearing on the burial permits, and no more information is given in the records of deaths. In 1872 the office began binding the original certificates preserved since 1866. The original certificates of marriages and births have been preserved since 1866, and have been bound since the beginning of 1880. From about 1870 to 1880 they were copied into registers. Since 1877 these returns have been classified



statistically in various ways, as by nativity, color, etc., and the tables have been published. Monthly reports have also been made to the State board of health. Not even fragmentary records of deaths in Brooklyn exist prior to 1847, or of marriages and births prior to 1866. If such were kept they must be sought at Albany. A minute book of the board of health for 1865 has survived; also a series of four minute books with a continuous record from May, 1873, to January, 1881. Two other record books contain very brief entries of transactions of the department during a part of September, 1892, and from January 2, 1893, to January 23, 1894. There is also a book entitled "Continuous record of official business," from February 1, 1894, to December 31, 1894. Printed orders and communications are posted in this, but evidently the record kept is very incomplete. No other administration records of this department have survived.

#### FIRE DEPARTMENT.

The minute books of the fire department begin with its organization, May 22, 1869, and exist in continuous series to December 31, 1897. There are seven of these ledger volumes, with an average of 600 pages each. They contain entries of all appointments, promotions, removals, deaths, and reinstatements, of resolutions putting members of the department on the pension or relief funds, and of the amounts paid them per annum; also of contracts, bills approved, and communications to the mayor, aldermen, and other city departments. Special records of fire losses made out on printed forms have been kept in the office of the chief of the force since the origin of the department. After May, 1893, all contracts relating to its business were made by this department and a record of these was kept. All ledgers and other account books from the origin of the department have been preserved, together with all duplicate vouchers and other original papers. Such records (rolls, minute books, etc.) as were kept by the Volunteer Firemen, an association which preceded the organization of the fire department, will be found in their office and in the office of the city clerk in Borough Hall.

## DEPARTMENT OF BUILDINGS.

From 1869 to January, 1876, building permits are said to have been issued by a bureau of the fire department. After the latter date there was a separate department of buildings. Files of permits for the erection and alteration of buildings since the beginning of 1876 exist in large numbers in its office. A large folio record book was kept from July, 1894, to the close of 1897 (390 pages), which contains elaborate monthly reports to the mayor on the number and character of buildings erected, with detailed classifications and tables. A similar book has been kept since the beginning of 1898, but under a somewhat different form. Four minute books of the department are also in existence, beginning June 17, 1880, and continuing till the present time.

## DEPARTMENT OF PARKS.

The records of the department of parks are kept in its present office in Borough Hall. They begin with a large minute book of the commissioners of Prospect Park from June 28, 1860, to April 13, 1882, about 450 pages. Another book contains the record of property condemned at the extension of Prospect Park pursuant to the minutes of the executive committee and of the finance and auditing committees of this board (law of April 24, 1868) are also here in separate volumes. The minute books of the board of park commissioners begin at its organization, June 22, 1882, and continue in 11 volumes, averaging about 350 pages each, to the present time. These minutes since January, 1898, record the doings of the single commissioner of parks for the boroughs of Brooklyn and Queens, and not those of the central board. Two minute books of the executive committee of the park board from May 17, 1887, to July 23, 1889, are here: also a record of bills audited from January 14, 1892, to December 27, 1894. Maps and plans of the Brooklyn parks are kept in the office of the engineer of the department at Litchfield Mansion, Prospect Park.

## DEPARTMENT OF CHARITIES AND CORRECTIONS.

The older records of the department of charities and corrections were found stored without order or care in a small building in the grounds of the almshouse, Clarkson street,

Flatbush. Five minute books are here, beginning August 7, 1850, and continuing to July 31, 1878. These contain on the average about 550 pages each. The earlier books are minutes of the superintendents of the poor of Kings County. The entry at the beginning of the earliest of these shows that there were still older records, but of these no trace has been found. On April 26, 1871, the county superintendents of the poor gave place to the commissioners of charities of the city of Brooklyn, and this board was accustomed to meet at the almshouse. The other records stored there relate wholly or chiefly to the administration of the almshouse, and include a variety of account books and invoices, records of admissions, burial permits, hospital transfers, weekly reports, etc. The later records of the department are in its office on Livingston street. These consist exclusively of minute books, five in number, from August 1, 1878, to the close of 1897, the books containing rather more than 700 pages each. Few papers of importance appear to have been kept on file.

#### EXCISE BOARD.

From about 1873 to March, 1896, Brooklyn had an excise board. On the latter date it was brought under the control of the State board of excise, since when its more important records are in the form of reports and returns filed at Albany. The records of the former excise board of the city are stored in the Eagle warehouse, Fulton street, and are now inaccessible to all except officials of the department. The writer was told that they consist of seven or eight minute books and of extensive files of papers, the latter consisting of applications for licenses, certificates of licenses, and transfers of the same.

#### BOARD OF EDUCATION.

The board of education has a complete series of its minutes from the date of its establishment, May 2, 1843, to the present time. Of these there are 33 manuscript volumes of from 400 to 1,290 pages each. The contents of the first five, from May 2, 1843, to March 15, 1867, have never been printed. Since March, 1867, all the minutes have been printed.

## RECORDS OF LONG ISLAND CITY.

The records of this municipality are now stored in two offices, that of the deputy city clerk, Hackett Building, Borough of Queens, and that of the controller, Stewart Building, Manhattan. In the former office is a large body of loose papers which, when the present investigation was made, were being examined, classified, and filed. They were therefore at that time inaccessible, and respecting their nature no definite statement can be made.

## CITY CLERK'S OFFICE.

The following record books were also stored in the office of the deputy city clerk:

(1) Three minute books of the trustees of the village of Astoria, beginning with the organization of village government, June 11, 1839, and extending to July 16, 1870, when the village ceased to exist and the charter of Long Island City went into effect.

(2) Minute books of the common council of Long Island City, in large ledger form, from July 18, 1870, to December 31, 1897. Of these there are 24 volumes, but not all are filled. At times this series of books was carelessly kept, as were the other records of the city. None of this material is in print.

(3) Six large index volumes to the minutes of the common council. These cover the years 1870 to 1897, and appear to be general in character. There are also two indexes of bills for the same years, and an index volume for the years 1870-1893, labeled "Miscellaneous."

(4) Two volumes labeled "Resolutions (mayor's office)" containing brief entries of all resolutions passed by the common council from July 18, 1871, to February 9, 1883, and a record of the action taken on them, i. e., whether they were vetoed, approved, or became law through lapse of time.

(5) One volume, 72 pages, containing copies of ordinances passed by the common council, July 28, 1870, to January 6, 1874.

(6) One volume called a "Register," partly filled with brief outlines of resolutions of the common council, August, 1871, to March, 1872. This was not regularly kept.

(7) One volume labeled "Record of standing committees of common council." This contains minutes of the proceedings of the finance committee of that body from November 10, 1885, to September 16, 1890, and from January 20, 1891, to March 3, 1891. This record was irregularly and often very briefly kept. There are also several books containing entries by the clerk of the finance committee of bills against the city, etc.

(8) Two large ledgers, labeled "Index to files," refer to files of resolutions of the common council between the dates September 1, 1874, and August 1, 1876. Two index volumes to resolutions of the common council from 1891 to 1894 are in the office of the controller, Manhattan.

#### POLICE BOARD.

In the Hackett Building are minutes of the police board from April 28, 1871, to July 19, 1878, 3 volumes, and from August 18, 1882, to December 31, 1897, 3 volumes. These are large ledgers containing more than 400 pages each. Investigation disclosed no other important record books of the department.

#### FIRE DEPARTMENT.

The only record books of the fire department which appear at the Hackett Building are a volume (188 pages) containing minutes from May 5, 1871, to May 5, 1879, and 4 volumes of registers of names of firemen. In the controller's office, Stewart Building, Manhattan, are 2 minute books (February, 1891, to December, 1897); pay rolls of the department from October, 1892, to December, 1897; an invoice book (May, 1891, to December, 1897), and certain warrant books.

#### BOARD OF HEALTH.

In the Hackett Building are minutes of the board of health from September 12, 1870, to October 19, 1871; November 9, 1875, to July 7, 1876, and September 8, 1882, to August 11, 1885. In the controller's office, Manhattan, are minutes of the same board from April, 1871, to November, 1875; March, 1876, to July, 1882; November, 1885, to September, 1890, and from the latter date to December, 1897.

## BOARD OF EDUCATION.

The only records of the board of education which the compiler of this report has seen are in the Hackett Building. They consist of 3 minute books of the board, covering the period between April 25, 1871, and August 27, 1887; 1 volume of minutes of school building commissioners, May, 1892, to December, 1895, and 1 volume of accounts, 1887-1889.

## STREET DEPARTMENT.

Relating to streets there is here a small book entitled "Minutes of commission of streets, roads, avenues, and parks, appointed under the laws of 1871, chapter 765." The records in it were kept from May 4, 1871, to December 31, 1875, but reference is made to only one meeting between June, 1872, and June, 1875. There are also 4 volumes of minutes of the improvement commission appointed under chapter 326 of the laws of 1874. The entries in these books fall between May 14, 1874, and December 31, 1881, when the work of the commission ended. The volumes are large and well kept. This commission kept a journal, day-book, cash book, and ledger, and also a volume of diagrams accompanying the engineer's estimates on grading, etc. A volume of minutes of the Flushing avenue improvement commission, appointed under chapter 410 of the laws of 1878, is also here. The minutes (118 pages) were kept from June 27, 1878, to July 9, 1886.

In the controller's office, Manhattan, are minutes of the improvement commission for Flushing avenue, 1880 to 1886, as well as certain account books of this commission; 2 minute books of the general improvement commission (July, 1893-September, 1894, and January, 1896-December, 1897), with certain of its later account books; 1 volume of record of resolutions of general improvement commission, 1892-1896; 1 minute book of the improvement of Jackson avenue and Vernon avenue (January, 1890-November, 1893); minutes of Gerard avenue and Maine avenue (July, 1890-December, 1892), with accounts; various certificates of stock and accounts relating to the construction of Steinway avenue; 1 volume entitled "Record of Department of Public Works,"

June, 1895–December, 1897; 3 books of records of the board of plumbers (1894–1897), with accounts; 1 book of minutes of the water department, January, 1893–December, 1897; 10 files of miscellaneous papers required for settling accounts at the time of consolidation.

FINANCIAL RECORDS.

In these two offices are also a large number of general account books (ledgers, journals, bill books, cashbooks, assessment rolls, records of tax sales, statement of outstanding debts, etc.), containing records of financial transactions of the city during the later years of its existence, chiefly since 1890. Among these are 2 volumes of minutes of the board of assessors, from July, 1876, to June, 1881. Unless there are other books in existence, the financial records of the city, especially during its earlier history, must be very imperfect.

RECORDS OF COUNTIES, PARTS OR THE WHOLE OF WHICH LIE  
WITHIN THE PRESENT CITY OF NEW YORK.

NEW YORK COUNTY.

County records in general are to be found in the offices of the supervisors, the county clerk, the register of deeds, the surrogate, the coroner, and the various courts of the county or courts which hold sessions within the county. These records consist of the minutes and filed papers of the supervisors, the deeds, wills, and coroners' inquests, and the minutes and other records of the courts.

For the reason that the board of aldermen of the city have, during much of its history, acted as supervisors of the county, it has been possible to find only a few distinct supervisors' records for New York County. Such as have been found are in the vaults of the City Hall and in the record room of the controller's office. Those in City Hall are:

- 3 volumes partly filled with rough minutes of supervisors, 1845–1850.
- 2 volumes of engrossed minutes (the aldermen acting as supervisors),  
May 12, 1873–Nov. 30, 1874. About 500 pp. each.
- 6 volumes of resolutions of supervisors approved by the mayor, 1858–  
1874. About 500 pp. each.

2 volumes of minutes of the committee on armories and drill rooms, 1873 and 1874.

3 files of bonds (Nos. 1 to 436).

3 files of reports of the board of audit, 1868.

95 files of supervisors' papers, 1810-1873.

Of these, the first (1810-1842) contains reports of city officials (chiefly in the department of finance) to the supervisors, resolutions of supervisors, some minutes of their meetings, reports on profits and dividends of banks and insurance companies in the county, etc. The material is important and valuable. In the later files the papers are fuller and more continuous, with many reports from committees and officials, and manuscript minutes of meetings. A careful examination of the contents of these files would probably bring to light much of the work of the supervisors of New York County during the first half of the nineteenth century.

#### OFFICE OF THE CONTROLLER.

The only papers noticed in the record room of the controller's office which refer expressly to the supervisors are 3 volumes of resolutions of supervisors, 1845-1850, and 2 bundles labelled "Resolutions of board of supervisors, 1864 to 1867." In that collection is also a considerable quantity of vouchers pertaining to the business of the county of New York from 1858 to 1874. These relate to salaries of the judiciary and county officers generally, erection and repair of county buildings, expenditure of the State fund for common schools, support of the various asylums, homes, and other charitable institutions of the county, construction of county bridges, coroners' fees and fees of jurymen, election expenses, armories and drill rooms, etc. There are 23 boxes filled with vouchers for damages inflicted during the draft riots of 1863. These are claims against the county, and contain itemized statements of damages sustained during the riots, and papers accompanying the same. Where these claims led to trials, the records of the trials are here.

#### COUNTY COURT-HOUSE.

Among the judicial records in the basement of the county court-house is a volume entitled "Minute book of the new loan office, 1792," which appears to contain a record of county business.

#### OFFICE OF THE REGISTER OF DEEDS.

The records in the office of the register of deeds are vast in extent, but their general uniformity makes it possible to describe them in comparatively brief space. The books



used for the copies of deeds and mortgages contain about 500 pages each. In point of time these records may be conveniently divided into those prior to January, 1891, and those subsequent to that date. This date is chosen because it marks the time of the adoption by the office of the block system of indexing. All books containing deeds recorded since January 1, 1891, are arranged according to the sections into which the city has been divided for the purposes of the block system, and are kept on the lower floor of the register's office. The older books are arranged chronologically, and are kept on the second floor of the building. There are 2,363 books of conveyances and 2,636 books of mortgages prior to January, 1891, and all are indexed. The oldest deeds recorded date from 1654 and subsequent years, and were drawn according to Dutch forms. The series of conveyances begins with Liber 10; the whereabouts of the first 9 books have not been determined. In the older books miscellaneous documents, as wills, contracts, indentures of apprenticeship, and general mortgages, were sometimes engrossed. The first part of Liber 29 is filled with the accounts and balance sheets of Collector Weaver of New York, from June, 1701, to the close of July, 1703. These give a detailed statement of the trade of the port of New York during that period, and of the revenue from customs inward and outward. It is safe to say that no more valuable or detailed record of trade and customs during the colonial period has survived.

A series of 22 volumes and 1 index contains the record of grants of powers of attorney since the existence of the office began. Three volumes contain the charters and certificates of incorporation granted to religious societies within the county from 1784 to the present time. In the first two volumes the results of elections for trustees and wardens are in many cases recorded. This apparently was done pursuant to an act passed about 1784 to enable religious societies to appoint trustees. A volume of 169 pages, copied from the original deposited in the office of the clerk of New York County by the commissioners of forfeitures for the southern district of New York, contains the records of the sales of the estates of loyalists in New York County

from June 16, 1784, to June 9, 1787. The contents of this are of great interest.

Under the block system the territory of Manhattan and the Bronx is divided into 13 sections, each of which is subdivided into blocks, all of which are numbered. Detailed maps of both the sections and the blocks are kept in this office, the collection of maps and plans, old and new, exceeding 6,700. By consulting the maps one who knows the number of the section and of the block in which the property he is seeking is situated can easily locate it. The books of conveyances and mortgages, in which records have been entered since the block system was adopted, are arranged by sections and chronologically within each section. Elaborate indexes are also prepared for them; hence, notwithstanding their vast number and rapid increase, the work of consulting them is made very simple. The total number of volumes which have been filled since the block system was adopted is 656 of conveyances, 900 of mortgages, and 37 miscellaneous.

The number of chattel mortgages which have been filed in this office is so vast that it is impossible to keep a detailed record of them.

#### OFFICE OF THE SURROGATE.

In the surrogate's office wills and other documents are copied into volumes of 500 pages each. There are 630 volumes of wills, beginning about 1660 and continuing to the present time; 231 volumes of letters of administration (volume 1 missing), extending from 1774 to the present time; 14 volumes of letters of administration with will annexed; 95 volumes of letters of guardianship; 159 volumes of records of deeds on accounting; 172 volumes of records of orders; 14 volumes of real-estate proceedings; 7 volumes of renunciations of executors; 19 volumes of records of bonds since May 1, 1890; 168 guardian bond books; 350 volumes of administration bonds; 129 volumes of letters testamentary; 28 volumes of orders appointing special guardians on probate proceedings; 15 volumes of orders appointing special guardians on accounting proceedings; 35 volumes of orders of public citations. There are also 225

volumes of minutes of cases, preserved in typewritten form from stenographers' notes. Volumes 1 to 67 of wills, and many others of later dates, have been copied, because through wear they were becoming illegible. The originals, however, are preserved, and are for the most part in pretty good condition. Historically, much of the most valuable material found with the records of wills is in the inventories of property which were filed with them. Of these there are many, some of them of great length, in the volumes. But besides these, two volumes of inventories exist uncopied in the office, and their contents are of great interest. Entries in them fall between the dates 1730 and 1752 (488 pages), and 1776 and 1786 (662 pages), respectively.

The original papers, which are copied into the books just referred to, are also filed in this office under the same classification as the books. The oldest package of wills here (original papers) dates, so far as part of its contents is concerned, from 1662.

Elaborate indexes exist for all series of books in the office which are open to public inspection.

#### JUDICIAL RECORDS.

The judicial records of New York County are exceedingly voluminous. They will be found in the criminal courts building, Centre street, and in the county courthouse, under the immediate care of the county clerk. For some years back a brief record of the cases which passed through the office, called a register of felonies, has been kept in the office of the district attorney. Since 1896 this has been kept in greater detail. In books provided for the purpose a complete record is entered of every case which comes into the office, of every stage in the case, and of its final disposition.

Deposited with the New York Historical Society are the minutes of the court of quarter sessions of the peace of the city and county of New York, from February, 1684, to August, 1762. They fill three volumes, folio, two of which contain about 550 pages each, and the other about 175 pages. The volumes are bound in vellum and the records elegantly kept.

In the office of the clerk of the court of general sessions is a complete file of the minute books of that court from February, 1790, to date; also of the minute books of the court of oyer and terminer from 1784 to 1895. Voluminous series of filed papers are here—of coroners' inquests from 1784 to date, with names of coroners and jurors; of indictments disposed of from 1774 to date; of bonds given in all criminal cases, whether before a grand jury, in a police court, or in sessions, from 1784 to date; of affidavits made before magistrates for complaints from 1784 to date; and of grand-jury dismissals. In this record room papers and books are admirably arranged and kept, metal file cases being used.

Respecting the records of the court of special sessions, which tries misdemeanors, prior to its reorganization in 1895, little definite information could be obtained. It was stated that files of affidavits and of all papers connected with cases tried since 1895 are complete and arranged. Such papers exist for the years 1873 to 1895, but are not well arranged. Papers prior to 1873 are incomplete and in confusion. Minute books of the court from 1869 are in the office, but those of earlier date were said to be inaccessible and were supposed to be incomplete.

Judicial records of even greater extent are in the vaults and other apartments of the county court-house. In an alcove in one of the rooms of the basement is a large mass of original records of the supreme court in the eighteenth century. They appear to consist almost wholly of judgments, pleas, and recognizances. Some extracts of fines appear, but in limited numbers. These records are beautifully written on parchment, and form, in the technical sense, rolls. The entries in them also refer to business of the entire province. They are loosely tied in bundles, briefly labeled, and thrust indiscriminately into this alcove, where they have lain unnoticed and uncared for till the dust which has accumulated upon them has become so thick as to repel any but the most persistent inquirer. Large numbers of minute books of the supreme court during the eighteenth century are stored in various places in these rooms, but they

too are left utterly neglected, without order, and thickly covered with dust. Some of these are rough minutes, but the greater part are engrossed. All are ledgers of some 400 pages each. A hasty examination was made of more than 20 of these, falling between the dates 1714 and 1793.

Nearly 250 volumes of minutes of sessions of the supreme court in New York County since about 1850 are also stored here. Here also are about 40 large volumes, entitled "Geneva, Utica, and Albany Judgments," of dates mostly between 1830 and 1850. Two hundred and fifty volumes or more of common rule books of the supreme court, belonging to the present century, are here, together with nearly 50 writ or precipe books bearing dates between 1728 and 1791.

A few volumes of rough minutes of chancery, belonging mostly to the early years of the nineteenth century, are also to be found here. Court calendars, records of the sheriff's office, jury lists, sales books, bill books, fee books of the county clerk's office, minutes of sittings, register of searchers, are the titles of other series which are here in whole or in part, but in great disorder.

Four minute books of the city or mayor's court have also been noted, between the dates 1714 and 1765. These are presumably rough drafts of minutes which, in an engrossed form, are in an upper room of the same building. Twenty-seven volumes, entitled "Common Pleas in the Mayor's Court," begin with the year 1797 and continue through the early years of the nineteenth century.

But the great bulk of matter stored in these basement rooms consists of filed papers. There are many thousand files arranged on shelves, which rise from floor to ceiling and fill many rooms. These files contain the original papers connected with all varieties of business done by the supreme court in the county during the nineteenth century. Each file is labeled with the date and the character of the documents it contains. Orders, judgments (in both equity and law), decrees, opinions, depositions, bonds, excise bonds, bills of costs, oaths, reports and exceptions, applications for and admissions to the bar, and pleadings appear upon the labels as important and voluminous series among the files.

Pleadings run back in ample series to 1783. Extensive files contain the original papers of the mayor's court from 1683 to 1845.

Among these records also are 20 volumes of returns of the census of New York City for 1855, and 24 volumes of similar returns for 1870. Vast quantities of election returns, poll lists, and similar matter of recent date, also of census returns during the past twenty years, are stacked in these vaults. This is by far the largest repository of records in the city, and in it, except so far as the filed papers are concerned, great disorder prevails.

In the record room of the supreme court, in the upper part of the same building, are all except the first volume of the minutes of the mayor's court of the city of New York. The first volume is said to be in the office of the clerk of the common council. The second volume of the series—the first in this record room—begins with November 13, 1674, and the series continues in 31 volumes (with 1 volume of rough minutes) to 1768. One volume of sheriff's records also appears for the years 1701–1706; it contains writs, attachments, executions, etc. For the years between 1768 and 1784 only one volume, labeled "Dockets, 1774–1786," appears. In February, 1784, the minutes begin again and continue in 31 volumes to April, 1821. All except a few of the volumes of this entire series are large, containing about 500 pages each.

With May, 1821, begin the minutes of the common pleas of the city and county of New York. These continue from that date to 1895, and are contained in some 191 volumes of from 500 to 600 pages each. Five volumes of dockets of judgments of the mayor's court are here, beginning in 1787 and ending in 1822. The dockets of judgments of the common pleas then begin and continue till 1895, in 56 large volumes. Other record books of the same court are:

40 volumes of clerks' registers, 1856–1895.

35 volumes of order books, 1860–1895.

2 volumes of record of wills proven, 1817–1892.

18 volumes of judgment books, 1848–1895.

405 volumes of foreclosure rolls, common pleas, from about 1845 to 1895.

243 volumes of partition records.

69 volumes of referees' reports of sales.

A few other miscellaneous record books and a large number of files of papers of the court of common pleas are also found here.

In the same room are also the minute books of the superior court of New York from 1848 to 1895. These are entitled "Court Papers," and are in 40 large volumes. Forty-eight other volumes of minute and order books of the same court in chambers, special term, trial term, and equity term since about 1890 are also here, together with a considerable quantity of filed papers of the same court.

In the office of the county clerk itself the following series of books are kept:

- Chancery registers, 1787-1824. 47 vols.
- Chancery minutes, 1727-1824. 63 vols.
- Vice-chancery registers, 1824-1850. 26 vols.
- Vice-chancery minutes, 1830-1850. 126 vols.
- Supreme court registers, 1850 to date. 69 vols.
- Supreme court minutes, 1850 to date. 200 vols.
- Index to chancery judgments, 1764-1847. 1 vol.
- Vice-chancery index, 1823-1850. 1 vol.
- Supreme court index, 1850 to date. 8 vols.
- Index to bonds, 1786 to date. 20 vols.
- Referees' reports, 1850 to date. 13 vols.
- Record of *lis pendens*, 1823 to date. 835 vols.
- Equity judgments, 1885 to date. 216 vols.
- General assignments, 1860 to date. 69 vols.
- Incorporations, indexes, 1800 to date. 27 vols.
- Limited partnership, 1822 to date. 35 vols.
- Continued use of firm name, 1886 to date. 7 vols.
- Incorporations. 125 vols.
- Payment of capital stock, 1800 to date. 17 vols.
- Record of convictions, 1885 to date. 4 vols.
- Insolvent assignments, 1866 to date. 7 vols.
- Sheriffs' sales, 1800 to date. 32 vols.
- Indexes to conveyances, 1750 to date. 7 vols.
- Insolvent debtors, 1823 to date. 12 vols.
- Block index, 1894 to date. 67 vols.
- Miscellaneous records, 1830 to date. 8 vols.
- Other miscellaneous records of various dates. 26 vols.
- Executions, 1814 to date. 30 vols.
- Inventories and accounts, 1832 to date. 2 vols.
- Court papers, 1891 to date. 25 vols.
- Notices of appeal, 1877 to date. 4 vols.
- Depositions, 1848 to date. 2 vols.
- Commissions, 1848 to date. 3 vols.

Habeas corpus and mandamus, 1853 to date. 2 vols.  
 Remittiturs, 1851 to date. 4 vols.  
 Cases and exceptions, 1844 to date. 4 vols.  
 Findings, 1895 to date. 1 vol.  
 Street openings, 1816 to date. 2 vols.  
 Physicians and surgeons, 1880 to date. 4 vols.  
 Dentistry, 1879 to date. 3 vols.

In the docket and search departments are about 180 volumes of indexes to sheriffs' and marshals' sales, general assignments, appointments of receivers in supplementary proceedings, insolvent assignments, absconding debtors, collectors' bonds, homestead exemptions, unsafe building liens, liens on vessels, and equity suits. In the same department are 620 volumes of dockets of judgments, 1785 to date, and 96 volumes of dockets of mechanics' liens, 1877 to date.

Each of the twelve trial parts of the supreme court as at present organized keeps its own set of minutes, running back, respectively, to the dates of the organization of the several parts. These minutes contain for each session the titles of the cases, the names of the attorneys of record, the names of the jury impaneled and of the witnesses called, and the verdict.

The present city court keeps also the usual minutes and docket books, but there was not time to ascertain their number and dates.

## KINGS COUNTY.

### OFFICE OF THE DEPUTY CITY CLERK.

The manuscript minutes of the supervisors of Kings County are deposited in the office of the deputy city clerk, each volume being indexed. The series of large ledgers there are numbered 4-72, inclusive. No. 4 begins with January, 1830, and the last entries of No. 72 were made in July, 1894. The ledgers contain about 500 pages each. Printed minutes of the board also exist since 1859. There is also here a large body of loose papers—vouchers, bills, etc.—which came from the office of the supervisors. These are in bundles and fill four large closets or wardrobes. Certain additional volumes contain salary warrants, con-



tracts, etc., of the board of supervisors. A quantity of sheriffs' reports entered on rolls is also here.

The other records of Kings County are kept in the Hall of Records.

OFFICE OF THE SURROGATE.

In the surrogate's office are—

- 272 volumes of wills, 1787 to date.
- 106 volumes of letters of administration, 1787 to date.
- 76 volumes letters testamentary, 1830 to date.
- 179 volumes administrators' bonds.
- 8 volumes letters of administration with will annexed.
- 90 volumes bonds of guardianship.
- 52 volumes final accounts.
- 8 volumes real estate papers.
- 5 volumes guardians' accounts.
- 4 volumes renunciations of executors.
- 9 volumes orders respecting advertising for claims.
- 6 volumes orders appointing special guardians.
- 26 volumes surrogates' minutes, beginning in 1851.
- 113 volumes stenographers' minutes of testimony taken in court.

The office has a very large number of files of papers, falling under nearly all of the above heads.

The books and records of the business done in Kings County under the law of the inheritance tax are also kept in this office.

OFFICE OF THE REGISTER OF DEEDS.

In the office of the register of deeds are—

- 2,276 volumes conveyances, beginning about 1639.

The first 5 of these belong to dates prior to 1800. Volume 2 contains a copy of the Dongan laws of 1683-84.

- 2,595 volumes of mortgages, beginning about 1756.

Some mortgages of earlier date will be found in volume 1 of conveyances. One volume of mortgages (175 pp.), 1665-1675, contains translations from the Dutch records and copies of English records, made by order of the supervisors in 1865.

- 37 volumes of chattel mortgages.
- 12 volumes powers of attorney.
- 1 volume contracts.
- 1 volume wills.
- 1 volume miscellaneous records.

The usual files of papers accompany these records, and in this office and that of the surrogate the usual indexes will

also be found. In the office of the register are also 1,957 maps, mostly of farm lands in the county, all filed since 1800.

OFFICE OF THE COUNTY CLERK.

In the office of the county clerk are—

54 volumes minutes of the clerk of the supreme court, beginning about 1846.

23 volumes minutes of the clerk of the city court of Brooklyn.

The series closes with the abolition of the court in 1896. This and the preceding series are an index of suits at law and of the papers filed in such suits.

186 volumes *Lis Pendens* (indexed), beginning about 1830.

90 volumes money judgments (indexed).

249 volumes judgment and decree books, 1830-1882.

152 volumes copies of judgment rolls, 1848-1888.

2 volumes minutes of court of common pleas (not indexed), beginning about 1807 and ending about 1840.

1 volume road and court records.

This book contains the minutes of the court of session prior to 1703. The road records fall within about the same period.

130 volumes miscellaneous records, 1847-1869.

173 volumes mechanics' liens (indexed).

173 volumes general assignments.

23 volumes (indexed), containing records of homestead exemptions, collectors' bonds, mortgages to loan commissioner, insolvent assignments, reports of corporations, sheriffs' certificates of sale, foreclosures by advertisement, orders appointing receivers, and special proceedings.

All of these volumes are of dates subsequent to 1800.

4 volumes of muster rolls of State volunteers, 1861-1865.

In the office also are 626 maps of street openings, etc.

WESTCHESTER COUNTY.

The minutes of the supervisors of Westchester County are in existence in both manuscript and printed form, from 1772 to the present time, with the exception of the years during which the British occupied New York.

OFFICE OF THE SURROGATE.

In the surrogate's office books of wills begin in 1787. The first is a lettered series (A-Z), the volumes containing from 250 to 500 pages each. Volume Z closes in December, 1843. The numbered series then begins with volume 27 and extends

to volume 136, bringing the record to date. Letters of administration begin in 1797 and fill a lettered series from A to X. Letters testamentary begin in 1830 and fill a lettered series from A to V. Letters of guardianship begin in 1802 and fill a lettered series from A to O. Sales of real estate begin in 1822 and fill a lettered series from A to Q. Records of renunciation of executorship from 1847 to the present are contained in 2 volumes. Letters of administration with will annexed, from 1852 to the present, are contained in 3 volumes. Minutes of inventories of estates, from 1859 to date, are contained in 3 volumes. Ancillary letters of administration begin in 1881 and fill part of one volume.

Surrogates' minutes begin with January, 1830. Those prior to January, 1877, are contained in an alphabetical series (A-Z), while the minutes from that date to the present fill 25 volumes of a numbered series. The minutes are a record of all orders signed by the surrogate, except those for the sale of real estate, for the issuance of letters and orders directing service of citation by publication, for appointment of appraisers, and designating newspapers in which notices to present claims should be published. Transfer tax matters are also separately recorded. The minutes generally contain decrees.

Orders for citations by personal service begin in 1842 and continue to 1885 in volumes A to H. From that time on there were kept only records of citation by publication, of which several volumes exist. Orders for appointment of appraisers begin in 1842 and continue to the present in volumes A-H. Orders for administration begin in 1842 and continue to the present in volumes A-I. Orders for appointment of special guardians begin in 1858 and continue to the present in volumes A-F. Orders for claims begin in 1863 and continue to the present in 7 volumes. Orders for probate of wills begin in 1858 and continue to 1895 in 13 volumes; since 1895 they have been recorded with the wills. Minutes of orders testamentary begin in 1863 and continue to 1896 in volumes A-G; minutes of accounts, 1828-1852, in volumes A-D. Various books of executors' and administrators' oaths are here. One book contains entries of wills proved before the county judge, 1855-1862. A few books contain

orders for the appointment of special guardians. One thin volume contains records of the court of common pleas for Westchester County, sitting at Bedford in 1800 and 1809, at Sing Sing in 1818, and again at Bedford in 1826. In it are proceedings concerning certain wills.

The following original papers are on file in this office:

Real estate papers, 1782 to date.

Administration papers, 1782 to date.

Inventories, 1782 to date.

Executors' accountings, 1782 to date.

Probate papers, 1782 to date.

Administrators' accountings, 1787 to date.

Guardians' final accounts, 1837 to date.

The number of files is large in all except the last-named series.

#### OFFICE OF THE REGISTER OF DEEDS.

In the office of the register of deeds are 1,547 volumes of deeds, 1,245 volumes of mortgages, and 190 volumes of discharges of mortgages, all of about 450 pages each. Book A of deeds is entitled, "A Booke of Records for the County of Westchester in the Province of New York, begun the 20th day of February, Anno Dom. 1684-5." This book is to a large extent filled with deeds, wills, agreements, bills of sale, records of marriages, etc., executed before justices of the peace and recorded by and for them. Among the records in the volume is a commission of justices of the peace of Westchester County, issued by Governor Dongan, October 2, 1685. Many important deeds of manors or parts of manors in Westchester are recorded here, some of which have been printed in the histories of the county. The book contains 303 pages, and entries in it close December, 1688. Book B, 399 pages, begins October, 1688, and closes March, 1699. The records in it are of the same important and miscellaneous character as those in Book A. Book C, 440 pages, extends from 1699 to 1707, and contains many important miscellaneous records, besides deeds. Book D, 111 pages, continues from 1707 to January, 1713. On the reverse pages of about one-half the volume are recorded minutes of the court of common pleas and general sessions of the peace of Westchester County, from June, 1713, to June, 1723.

With Book E, 1710-1724, 449 pages, the miscellaneous records for the most part disappear. The records of mortgages begin with January, 1755. Records of discharges of mortgages begin with 1830. All these series continue to the present time. The usual index volumes of grantees and grantors, mortgagees and mortgagors, are also here.

In the basement of the county court-house are files of coroners' inquests from 1850 to the present time; also records of money judgments of the supreme court from 1847 to 1883 (judgments of the supreme court going back at least to 1802), and transcripts of judgments of the supreme court from 1842 to 1892. Election returns, applications for licenses, juror returns, judgments of the court of common pleas, and mechanics' liens are also here in considerable quantities, all in bundles, unarranged and covered with dust. They are said to have been kept for years in a damp vault, but later were brought into this room, which is tolerably dry. Several original books of deeds, which have been copied, are also here.

The county possesses a collection of about 1,200 maps.

#### QUEENS COUNTY.

Manuscript minutes of the board of supervisors are in existence from May 17, 1788, to the present time, in 14 volumes of about 500 pages each. The minutes since 1871 are in print. The manuscript minutes are in the county court-house, Long Island City. There also are the original papers—contracts, bills, vouchers, etc.—of the board since 1880. None of their original papers for dates earlier than 1880 have been found.

The rest of the records of Queens County are in the offices of the county clerk and surrogate, at Jamaica. They consist of wills, deeds, and judicial records.\* Book A of deeds contains wills as well as deeds. Regular entries of both begin in 1683, those of deeds continuing till 1703, those of wills to 1713. Miscellaneous entries also appear in considerable numbers, as agreements, discharges from obligations to pay the debts of deceased persons, releases from obligations of guardianship, records of elections of county

treasurers, and statements passing the accounts of outgoing treasurers. The book contains about 240 pages, more than one-half of which are filled with copies of wills. Book B, in two parts, with a total of 1,160 pages, contains only deeds. Entries in this fall between 1684 and 1714. Book C, containing about 670 pages, has many miscellaneous entries in addition to its deeds. Entries of deeds begin June 5, 1714, and continue till July 5, 1724; then after a break come others from October, 1755, to March, 1785. This part of the book contains 418 pages. The miscellaneous entries include various records of the laying out of highways (September, 1703-March, 1717, and May, 1765), wills (1714, 1715, 1720-1726, some later than 1750), letters of administration, letters of guardianship, etc. Book D, 492 pages, contains some records of the laying out of highways, but consists mainly of entries of deeds, 1725-1765. Book E, 557 pages, contains entries of deeds from July, 1765, to February, 1788. No entries appear between the dates June 15, 1776, and May 2, 1778, and they are few between the latter date and 1780. None of the later books of the series call for special mention. They are all filled exclusively with deeds. The letter series continues till 1830. Then follows a double-lettered series (AA, etc.), continuing till 1840. Then comes the numbered series, beginning with No. 52 and continuing to the present time. Book 1232 closes with April 9, 1900.

Books of mortgages begin in 1754. The lettered series (A-Z) continues to 1835. Then follows a double-lettered series, as in the deeds, extending to 1848. Then begins the numbered series, with No. 51, and continues to the present. Book 824 closes with April 16, 1900. One hundred and eighteen books are filled with records of discharges of mortgages (January, 1830-November, 1899). Fifty-five books of notices of pendency of action extend from June, 1827, to the present time.

The usual elaborate indexes of grantees, grantors, mortgagees and mortgagors, are to be found here. The collection of county maps exceeds 1,000 in number, and for it an index has been prepared.

In the same office are the abundant judicial records of the county. First to be noted are the minute books of the court

of common pleas from May, 1784, to June, 1791; November, 1791, to June, 1808; parts of 1808, 1809, and 1812; November, 1808, to June, 1822; November, 1822, to June, 1832; June, 1832, to June, 1838; June, 1838, to November, 1845; and June, 1841, to July, 1847. Here also—and they are to a large extent kept in the same books as the above—are minutes of the court of general sessions from June, 1788, to June, 1790; November, 1808, to June, 1822; and November, 1822, to November, 1828. A distinct series, entitled "Minute Books of General Sessions of the Peace," extends from 1829 to 1900, in 8 volumes, averaging more than 400 pages each. Minutes of the court of oyer and terminer, 1834–1897, fill 4 volumes. Records of the circuit court, 1815–1847, exist here in 2 volumes; also minutes of the county court from 1847 to the present time, in 6 volumes. Minutes of the supreme court (circuit court and special term), 1862–1897, fill 5 volumes of about 450 pages each. Coroners' inquests are filed here from 1844 to the present time, with an index in 2 volumes. Four books of records of sheriffs' sales are here, beginning with April, 1857. One hundred and seven volumes of common rule books of the supreme court, with indexes, cover the period 1847 to February, 1900. There are various index volumes of dockets, judgments, and decrees, from 1860 down; also volumes of entries of mechanics' liens, collectors' bonds, affidavits, notices of mortgage sales, certificates of incorporation (beginning with 1881), sheriffs' certificates, and coroners' returns (beginning 1896). One volume contains an index of chattel mortgages (Queens County) from 1835 to 1897. Another contains an index to chattel mortgages (town of Flushing) from 1886 to 1897. Three volumes contain the same record for Newtown, 1849–1897. One volume contains a record of the incorporation of churches in Queens County, October, 1836, to June, 1867. Another contains minutes of the commissioners of excise of the county from May 3, 1857, to August 6, 1869.

In the office also are copies of a part of the records of the towns of the county—Jamaica, Newtown, Flushing, Hempstead, North Hempstead, and Oyster Bay. These copies, which were made under the supervision of the county clerk,

contain only the entries relating to land, and such collateral subjects as highways. In the case of some of the towns the copies have not been finished. The copies from the Jamaica records fill 2 books; those from the Newtown records, 6 books and part of a seventh; those from the Flushing records, a part of 1 book; those from the Hempstead records, nearly 5 books; those from the North Hempstead records, nearly 5 books; those from the records of Oyster Bay, 12 books. The copies begin with the earliest records and come down, in most cases, to some date in the nineteenth century. The books are, for the most part, indexed.

The record of wills in the surrogate's office begins with May, 1787, and continues to date in two series of books, the first of which is lettered (A-G), and the second numbered (1-66). The series of letters testamentary begins in 1830 and continues to the present in lettered volumes (A-U). Letters of administration begin in 1787 and continue to the present, also in a lettered series (A-Y). Special letters of administration begin in 1838, and fill 3 books. Letters of guardianship begin in 1802 and continue to the present in a lettered series (A-M). A series of 20 volumes contains accounts of executors and administrators since 1835. A series containing bonds of guardians is also kept. Thirty-nine volumes contain the surrogates' minutes from 1830 to the present time. Inventories have been filed since 1785; records of sales of real estate, since 1803. There are the usual indexes.

In the office of the county treasurer the only records of importance are assessment rolls, which go back only to 1857. Part of these are now in the county court-house and part in the borough hall.

#### RICHMOND COUNTY.

In a safe in the surrogate's office at Richmond are ten manuscript volumes of supervisors' minutes, beginning November 12, 1851, and closing February 17, 1890. The minutes of the board from February 26, 1890, to February 15, 1897, in six volumes, are in the office of the deputy city clerk, West Brighton. The earlier volumes of supervisors' minutes, extending back to the period of the Revolution,



are in private hands. Minutes of this board have been printed since 1870.

In the safe in the surrogate's office are also several bundles and files of original papers of the supervisors, falling between the dates 1859-1875, and 1890-1893; but they are evidently by no means complete. A daybook is also here containing accounts between the supervisors and the four towns in the county, 1838-1860. There is a volume of minutes of superintendents of the poor of Richmond County, January, 1863-June, 1890.

In the office of the deputy city clerk are two volumes of the journal of the county treasurer, 1877-1882; records of the board of excise, 1892-1896; minutes of the board of excise, 1895; various receipts, vouchers, and other account books.

In the office of the county clerk at Richmond are the deeds, mortgages, and judicial records of the county. The oldest book of deeds, 634 pages, begins with 1683 and ends with 1719. It purports to contain entries of "all wills, inventories, grants, deeds, mortgages, and other conveyances of land upon Staten Island in the county aforesaid, recorded and kept by his Royal Highness' authority, etc." As in the other counties, only one county book was kept at the beginning, and it contains a variety of miscellaneous records—leases, agreements, letters of trust, special bequests, letters of attorney, mortgages, and surveys. With the close of the second book of the series, entries in which end with 1734, miscellaneous records disappear, and only deeds are recorded. A lettered series of volumes (A-Z) closes with August, 1836. Then begins the numbered series (No. 1, April, 1836), which continues to the present time, in about 300 volumes.

Books of mortgages begin with 1759. The lettered series (A-Z) closes with May, 1841; then the numbered series begins (No. 1) and continues to the present, in 214 volumes. A *lis pendens* series of 18 volumes is also here, extending from January, 1830, to January, 1900. Discharges of mortgages begin in March, 1822, and extend, in 31 volumes, to January, 1900. The usual indexes have also been prepared.

The index volume shows that there are about 800 county maps, while certain atlases of the county are also kept here.

Among the judicial records of the county in this office are three interesting old books. The first contains records from October, 1680, to May, 1760, one entry appearing as early as February, 1678. The early part of this book is filled with records of the court of constable and overseers, held "on Staten Island" during the period from October, 1680, to February, 1682. These records fill nearly the whole of the first 57 pages. Occasionally blank spaces are filled with miscellaneous entries of later dates (1730, 1771, 1774, etc.)—earmarks of cattle and reports on the laying out of roads. Nearly all the entries after page 57 belong to the eighteenth century, and are miscellaneous in character, including some records of meetings of the freeholders for the election of constables, collectors, assessors, supervisors, and surveyors. The county was then divided into the north division, south division, and west division, and a distinct set of officials appears for each. The next book contains records of the courts of general sessions of the peace and of common pleas of the county from March, 1711, to March, 1744. In the third book of the series the records of these two courts are continued from September, 1745, to September, 1775. Then occurs a break till 1784. In May of that year sessions of the court of general sessions were resumed, but under State authority. After a few entries there is another break until September, 1795. The record then continues without interruption till April, 1813.

Of the more recent judicial records the following may be mentioned: County court rule books (2 volumes), from 1848 to the present time; supreme court rule books (7 volumes), from 1848 to the present time; supreme court minutes, circuit court (1 volume partly filled), September, 1847–November, 1861; minutes of supreme court in equity (1 volume), August, 1847–June, 1853; various docket books of the supreme court and records of powers of attorney; certificates of sheriffs' sales (2 volumes, the second partly filled), October, 1857, to the present time; record of general assignments (1 volume), July, 1860, to the present time; orders appointing receivers (1 volume), July, 1862, to the present time; certifi-

ates of incorporation (2 volumes), March, 1881, to the present time; list of notaries public (1 volume), 1880 to the present time.

In the surrogate's office the record of wills begins with May 23, 1787, and continues to date in a lettered series of volumes (A-Z), and a numbered series (vols. 1-5). A volume labeled "Miscellaneous Proceedings to May, 1830," contains letters of administration from April, 1787, to 1826; letters of guardianship from May, 1802, to March, 1828; and proceedings for the sale of real estate of insolvent intestates, from November, 1801, to January, 1830. The series then continues, through volumes 1, 2, and 3, to 1849. To that date the volumes contain letters of administration, letters testamentary, and letters of guardianship. In volume 3 are also letters of administration, with wills annexed, to 1878. In 1878 begins a separate volume containing a continuation of entries of this kind, reaching to the present time. With the close of volume 3 of the original series, at 1849, three distinct series were begun: (1) Letters of administration, 8 volumes, September, 1849, to date; (2) Letters testamentary, 7 volumes, October, 1849, to date; (3) Letters of guardianship, 3 volumes, September, 1849, to date. Fifteen volumes of surrogates' minutes are here, beginning April, 1830, and closing January, 1883. From the latter date to the present time the minutes are continued in a series of volumes entitled "Orders and Decrees." The originals of many of the wills are also filed here.

#### RECORDS OF THE TOWNS AND VILLAGES WHICH HAVE BEEN INCORPORATED WITHIN THE PRESENT CITY OF NEW YORK.

Reference has already been made to the records of the village and town of Brooklyn and the village of Astoria. It is now necessary to pass in review those of the towns and villages which have at different times been absorbed by Brooklyn and New York. The records of most of these have in part disappeared, and in some cases they have wholly or almost wholly eluded discovery by the present writer. While somewhat extended inquiries have been made concerning their whereabouts, there has not been time to

investigate the matter exhaustively, nor has it been thought necessary to do so at this juncture. It is not improbable that many of these records exist in private hands, and that the publication of this report may lead to their production or discovery. Certainly the historical interest attaching to them is superior to that belonging to many of the records which are preserved in the cities, and it is to be hoped that an effective effort will be made to recover and keep all of them which may be in existence.

I.—RECORDS OF THE TOWNS AND VILLAGES WHICH WERE ANNEXED TO THE FORMER CITY OF BROOKLYN.

*Williamsburg.*—The city of Williamsburg was annexed to Brooklyn at the close of 1854. It had then been a city only two years. Its records, and those of the town and village which preceded it, so far as their existence has been ascertained, are preserved in the office of the city clerk, Borough Hall, Brooklyn, while a few are in the basement of the same building. The minutes of the trustees of the village of Williamsburg are there, from June 28, 1837, to January 5, 1852, the latter being the date on which Williamsburg became a city. These volumes are of large ledger size, containing nearly 700 pages each. The entries at the beginning of the first volume show that earlier volumes existed, but they are not here. There is a ledger of the village, entries in which begin in 1828 and continue to about 1850. It contains accounts respecting wells, pumps, street paving, fire department, cabs, and a great variety of other matters. Another large ledger has survived, the entries in which continue from and after 1834. Five large books entitled "Village Tax" give apparently full lists of residents and taxable property for the years 1847 to 1851, inclusive.

Among the records in the basement of Borough Hall are various books of accounts of the village of Williamsburg—a journal with entries from 1838 to 1848; a daybook with entries from 1837 to 1846; warrants, 1849 to 1851; collectors' books, 1849 to 1851; a ledger for street openings, paving, etc., 1847 to 1849, and tax books.

In the office of the city clerk is a book of town records of

Williamsburg. This begins April 7, 1842, with a record of a town election of that date and an election return. The book is filled chiefly with brief records of the filing of chattel mortgages, bills of sale, bonds and oaths of officials, and marriages by the local justice of the peace. The journal of one meeting of the school commissioners appears. This was apparently the record book of Leonard T. Coles, first as supervisor and then as justice of the peace.

The records of the city of Williamsburg consist of—

Minutes of the common council, from Jan. 5, 1852, to Aug. 8, 1853, 781 pp., and from Oct. 23, 1854, to Dec. 30, 1854, 193 pp.

Minutes of the aldermen, from Aug. 22, 1853, to Oct. 16, 1854, 625 pp.

2 volumes indexes to the above minutes.

2 volumes rough minutes of the aldermen, 1852 and 1853.

1 volume partly filled with ordinances of the city, passed in 1852 and 1853, 75 pp.

An ordinance of special importance was for the regulation of the police department.

1 volume of reports of standing and special committees and departments, from Jan. 10, 1853, to May 29, 1854, 623 pp.

This is a book of great value.

1 volume entitled "General Account, Controller's Office."

This covers the entire period of the existence of Williamsburg as a city.

6 tax books of the city for the levy of a county tax.

No files of papers were found.

*Bushwick.*—Of the records of the former town of Bushwick no trace has been found, though the opinion is expressed that some of them are still in existence.

*New Lots.*—The same statement as above must be made concerning the records of the former town of New Lots. The records of births, deaths, and marriages in this town, together with those of Flatbush, Flatlands, Gravesend, and New Utrecht, for a few years prior to 1895, are in the office of the board of health of Brooklyn.

*Flatbush, Flatlands, Gravesend, and New Utrecht.*—The most valuable parts of the records of Flatbush, Flatlands, Gravesend, and New Utrecht, which were annexed to Brooklyn in 1895, are preserved in the office of the commissioner of records of Kings County. The rest, which relate to matters of recent date and of particular importance to the finance department, are at present in the office of the comp-

troller. The early records of these towns, with the exception of Gravesend, are in Dutch, but these it is the intention of the commissioner of records of Kings County to have translated in full. The old English records, so far as contained in books, will be copied and indexed. The records of the four towns, so far as accessible in the two offices mentioned, are entered here, reference to the entry being made in the report on the Dutch records of the State.

Of the Dutch records of Flatbush, two volumes of court minutes, comprised within the years 1659-1695, have survived, and also five volumes of town records, containing minutes of town meetings, deeds, and miscellaneous entries, falling between the years 1666 and 1826. These volumes contain from 90 to 320 pages each. The English records of the town, so far as they appear to have been preserved, consist of two volume of minutes of the town board and other records (1819-1851, 1875-1882); one volume of minutes of school trustees; seven volumes of reports of the supervisor of the town, containing his accounts as audited by the board of town auditors (January, 1886-June, 1894); minutes of the board of health (September, 1874-December, 1886); records of justices' court (October, 1887-December, 1892); tax lists of the town for 1877, 1879-1882, and 1884.

The Dutch records of Flatlands consist of only 2 books—road records, 1684-1719, and deeds and town records, 1674-1681. Those in English are—

2 volumes records of town meetings, 1783-1857, 1857-1895.

Minutes of the town board, 1892-1895.

Minutes of the oyster board, 1893-1895.

Minutes of the license board, 1891-1893.

2 minute books of the board of health, June, 1880-Dec., 1895.

Election returns, Apr., 1799-Nov., 1845.

This latter record was kept pursuant to an act of March 27, 1799, and contains interesting returns of the votes of the town in general elections.

There are also an account book of the supervisor, April, 1853-December, 1888, and a military roll, October, 1865.

The records of Gravesend are wholly in English. They consist of—

1 volume town records to 1653.

1 volume town records, 1653-1669.

1 volume town records, 1656-1844.

- 1 volume town records, 1662-1699.
- 1 volume town records, 1672-1685.
- 1 volume town records, 1645-1701.
- 1 volume town records, 1704-1871.
- 3 volumes records of town meetings, 1873-1894.
- 1 volume records of town board, 1873-1883.
- 1 volume records of schools for 1830-1841, and records of births of slaves, 1799-1819.
- 1 volume records of schools, undated.
- 5 volumes minutes of board of health, May, 1887-Aug., 1893.
- 1 volume minutes of town auditors, Aug., 1879-July, 1893.
- 1 volume record of trustees of common loan, 1880-1894.
- 1 volume minutes of board of health, acting as sewer commissioners, 1885 and 1886.
- 1 volume minutes of street improvement loan board, 1892-1894.

Of the record books of New Utrecht only two are in Dutch, viz, 1 volume of town records beginning in 1657, and 1 small volume of deeds and miscellaneous instruments, 1661-1686. The English records of this town consist of—

- 1 volume road records, 1704-1869.
- 1 volume records of highway commissioners, 1870.
- 1 volume records of town meetings, oaths, bonds, etc., 1831-1876.
- 1 volume records of town meetings, 1877-1894.
- 2 volumes chattel mortgages, 1850-1894.
- 1 volume assessors' record of drainage, 1871.
- 2 volumes supervisors' accounts, 1822-1873.
- 1 volume accounts of supervisor with schools, 1856-1872.
- 1 volume oaths of office, 1885-1894.
- 3 volumes military roll, 1851-1872.

In addition to the record books of these towns, there are on file in the office of the record commissioner of Kings County 19,240 miscellaneous papers, such as oaths, bonds, acceptances and resignations of office, etc., divided as follows: Flatbush, 5,867; Flatlands, 3,725; Gravesend, 4,814; New Utrecht, 4,337; miscellaneous, 497.

The volumes of the Dutch and early English records of these towns vary much in size, some containing more than 300 pages and others less than 100 pages. The larger number of them, however, contain more than 100 pages of written matter.

## II.—RECORDS OF THE TOWNS AND VILLAGES WHICH WERE ANNEXED TO THE FORMER CITY OF NEW YORK.

In order to form the present borough of the Bronx, the following local jurisdictions have been wholly or in part extinguished by annexation to the city: The villages of Morrisania and Williamsbridge, the towns of Kingsbridge and West Farms, with parts of Eastchester and Pelham, and the borough and town of Westchester. Some of these jurisdictions were annexed to New York in 1874, the others in 1895. No additional territory in this region was taken in at the time the charter of 1897 went into force. The records of this region have been hard to discover, and to only a part of them has access been gained.

The records of these localities, so far as they have been found, are now partly in the municipal building of the Bronx, partly in the office of the controller of New York City, partly in the office of the register of New York County, partly in the office of the corporation counsel, partly in the offices of the town clerks of Eastchester and Pelham, and partly in private hands.

The local records in the municipal building of the Bronx are wholly of a financial character. They consist (1) of special assessment lists for improvements—opening and grading of streets, sewers, etc.—in the towns and villages which were annexed to New York City under the act of 1874, and also continuing for the same region from 1875 to the present time. They are very numerous, and fill altogether some ninety racks. The oldest of the lists is an assessment and report of the commissioners appointed by the county court of Westchester to estimate and assess the expense of extending Union street, in West Morrisania, March, 1866. The document gives the numbers of lots, quantity of land, value of land, names of owners, and assessment. All of the other lists are of the same general character, and relate to improvements in territory which lay within what was originally Morrisania. (2) Certain assessment rolls of the annexed district of 1895. These are assessment rolls of the town of Westchester for years between 1861 and 1878, and records of tax sales of the same town from 1863 to 1894. A few other books of financial



record, of slight importance, complete the list in this building.

In the office of the controller are:

15 files of papers relating to the village of Williamsbridge before annexation.

About one-half of these are vouchers and paid warrants. The rest are miscellaneous papers relating to the incorporation of the village, as legal opinions, reports of village officers, contracts, proposals, specifications, papers relating to elections, letters to and from village officials, oaths of office, notices of public meetings, petitions, appointments, warrants, etc. These documents fall within the period of about ten years prior to 1895, at which time the annexation of Williamsbridge to New York City occurred.

16 files labeled "Records of Morrisania."

These begin in 1868, and consist of bills paid, reports, letters, and other communications. The papers are quite numerous, each file being large and full. The business referred to is of the same general nature as that of Williamsbridge, *supra*. They cover somewhat more than half the period of the existence of Morrisania as a village, i. e., 1864 to 1874.

Various assessment rolls and poll lists of Morrisania, 1863-1868.

5 files and a considerable quantity of unsorted original papers of the town of Westchester during the later years of its history.

These are of the same miscellaneous character as those of the villages just referred to.

4 files of miscellaneous records, together with a few account books, of the village of Wakefield, a locality which was formerly a part of the town of Eastchester, but is now in New York City.

Minute book of the trustees of Williamsbridge from July 10, 1894, to June 18, 1895. 263 pp.

2 minute books of the board of auditors of the town of Westchester, from January 9, 1888, to June 4, 1895. 390 pp. and 146 pp. respectively.

An interesting old record book of the town of Westchester, part of which is filled with entries of births and emancipations of negro children, from 1800 to 1823. The rest is filled with school records of the town—reports on schools of the town to the State superintendent of common schools from 1831 to 1842.

Various military rolls of Westchester, 1851, 1862, 1866; also a record of the officers, soldiers, and seamen of Westchester who served in the civil war, prepared by the town clerk pursuant to an act of 1865.

A partial record of licenses of Westchester.

In the office of the register of the county of New York are 10 volumes of the early records of the town of Westchester, as follows:

Vol. 1, 1665-1690. 273 pp.

Like all town books of that period, this and several of the volumes which follow it contain deeds, wills, and a variety of miscellaneous records, together with the minutes of some town meetings.

Vol. 2, 1686-1702. 207 pp.

Vol. 3, 1703-1709. 382 pp.

Vol. 4, deeds, agreements, and other documents, 1710-1720. 319 pp.

Vol. 5, 1711-1730. 374 pp.

This contains many minutes of trustees of the town; also, on the reverse pages, deeds and other documents falling approximately between the same dates.

Vol. 6, deeds and other documents, 1740-1769. 208 pp.

Vol. 7, minutes of town meetings and town boards, 1788-1827. 146 pp.

Vol. 8, minutes and other records of trustees, 1827-1847. 253 pp.

Vol. 9, minutes and other records of trustees, 1847-1876. 368 pp.

Vol. 10, minutes of trustees, 1876-March 10, 1879.

(Only 43 pages of entries.)

Two volumes of indexes to the deeds in the town records of Westchester are also deposited here—one for grantors, the other for grantees.

In the office of the corporation counsel of New York are the following records of Westchester:

1 volume records, 1840-1871. 362 pp.

1 volume records, 1863-1868. 402 pp.

Contain a great variety of miscellaneous records.

1 volume records, 1864-1867. 400 pp.

1 volume minutes of board of health of Westchester, Apr., 1884-June, 1895. 227 pp.

The other local records in this office are:

Minutes of trustees of Williamsbridge, Apr., 1892-July, 1894. 1 vol. 598 pp.

This belongs with the volume of minutes in the Stewart Building.

Minutes of special and village meetings of Williamsbridge, July, 1889-Dec., 1894. 1 vol. 73 pp.

This contains records of elections and of public meetings of taxpayers.

Minute book of the sewer commission of the village of Williamsbridge, Jan., 1893-July, 1895. 205 pp.

Minutes and other records relating to the board of education and district schools of Williamsbridge, Dec., 1887-Aug., 1894. 1 vol. 59 pp.

Minutes of school district No. 2, of Westchester County, i. e., of the board of education of Williamsbridge, Mar., 1879-July, 1895. 2 vols.

Minutes of the trustees of village of Eastchester, Apr. 23, 1895 (first meeting) to June 5, 1895. 1 vol.

Minutes of trustees of village of Wakefield (South Mount Vernon) from first meeting, Dec. 30, 1889-May 25, 1895. 2 vols. 431 + 317 pp.

The earlier records of the town of Eastchester are now in private hands. They consist of minutes and miscellaneous

records kept in books of small quarto size, and are well preserved. They are:

1 volume, 1664-1704, containing minutes of town meetings, grants of land, descriptions of property, marks of cattle, records of births, and records of laying out of highways.

A copy has been made of the minutes and of some other matter contained in this book, but not of the deeds.

1 volume town minutes and other records, 1666-1693.

1 volume town minutes, 1693-1726.

1 volume minutes of town meetings, exclusively, from Apr. 5, 1726, to Apr. 5, 1768.

Only one entry appears (for April 5, 1774) between 1768 and December 2, 1788. Entries then continue till April 8, 1835, at which date the book closes. In the back of this book are a few miscellaneous private entries.

1 volume of minutes of the poor of Eastchester, 1788-1824.

1 bundle of oaths of office.

1 bundle of oaths of office of overseers of the poor, 1800-1832.

1 bundle of documents from the office of the town clerk, 1796-1834.

1 bundle of papers from the office of the town assessors, 1794-1834.

1 bundle of oaths of office of supervisors, 1797-1834.

1 bundle of documents relating to highways, 1796-1841.

1 bundle of excise records, early years of the nineteenth century.

1 bundle of election returns (town and general elections) from about 1800 to 1830.

1 bundle of papers relating to constables, fence viewers, and pound masters, with other miscellaneous papers, 1794-1830.

The minute books and papers relating to town affairs in recent years are in the custody of the town clerk of Eastchester. Of these the following are noted as having historical importance:

1 volume minutes of trustees of public lands, 1866-1870.

1 volume minutes of board of town auditors, 1871-1880.

1 volume minutes of board of town auditors, 1883-1899.

1 volume minutes of town meetings, 1880-1886.

1 volume minutes of board of town officers, 1886-1892.

1 volume minutes of board of town officers, 1893-1900.

1 volume minutes of board of town officers, Feb. 6, 1900, to date.

The other records relate wholly to the financial affairs of the town during the past twenty or thirty years—register of bonds, supervisors' ledger and receipt books, assessment rolls, records of tax sales, records of receipt of taxes, records of leases, vouchers, chattel mortgages, etc.

Of the earlier records of the town of Pelham no trace has

been found. They are not in the possession of the town authorities, nor are they in the office of the city clerk of New Rochelle. The records of historical value in the office of the town clerk of Pelham are the following:

- 1 volume minutes of commissioners of highways, etc., 1801-1853.
- 1 volume minutes of town board, 1877-1893.
- 1 volume minutes of town board, 1897 to date.
- 1 volume minutes of board of health, 1881-1897.
- 2 volumes records of highway commissioners, 1886-1899.
- 1 volume labeled "Inhabitants, etc., 1852-1869."

The other records in the office are financial in character or relate to the granting of franchises. The contents are of the same general nature as those of the town of Eastchester. Several maps of streets, footways, and villages within the limits of the former town are also in the office.

Of the records of West Farms, which became a town in 1846, no trace has been discovered. The records of the manor of Fordham, if such existed, are said to have been destroyed.

### III.—RECORDS OF THE TOWNS AND VILLAGES WHICH WERE ANNEXED TO NEW YORK CITY AT THE BEGINNING OF 1898.

The records of these towns and villages, situated in Queens County—Jamaica, Newtown, Flushing, etc.—will be found in Room 173, Stewart Building (controller's office).

A fine set of town books of Jamaica exists in 6 volumes, viz:

- Town records, 1660-1722. 552 pp.
- Town records, 1722-1749. 490 pp.
- Town records, 1752-1855. 361 pp.
- Town records, 1856-1881. 502 pp.
- Town records, Sept., 1881-Mar., 1894. 499 pp.
- Town records, Apr., 1894-Dec., 1897. 343 pp.

There are two index volumes to the town records. As is usual, the older books were irregularly kept, the entries not being in chronological order, or arranged according to subjects. Most of the entries are of deeds, bills of sale, earmarks for cattle, miscellaneous contracts and agreements, leases or assignments of town lands, agreements fixing the bounds between Jamaica and neighboring towns, with an occasional record of a town meeting. By far the

larger part of the entries in the first book are indentures. The character of the second book is substantially the same. Of the third book one-half is filled with minutes of town meetings, while toward the close of the eighteenth century records of commissioners of highways appear, and about 1812 records of overseers of the poor. The fourth book contains systematic minutes of town meetings (for both election and regular business), minutes of the board of town officers, of town auditors, of school district meetings, and of commissioners of the highways; while deeds still continue to be enrolled. The contents of the volumes differ little from this to the end of the series.

The following records are also preserved:

- Record of vouchers, 1893-1897. 1 vol.
- Records of highway commissioners, 1891-1897. 3 vols.
- Journal of highway commissioners, 1896-1897. 3 vols.
- Minutes of trustees of common lands, 1881-1892. 1 vol.

This is an interesting record of the survival of annual leases by the town of common, and, for the most part, marshy land.

- Minutes of the board of health, 1860-1897. 2 vols.
- Minutes of board of public instruction, 1894-1896. 1 vol.
- Record of overseers of the poor (applicants) 1879-1897. 1 vol.
- Various account books of overseers of the poor, town board, supervisor, and town clerk.
- Criminal docket, 1860-1897.

The records of the village of Jamaica consist of—

- Minutes of the trustees of the village from 1814, when the village was incorporated, to the close of 1897.

These fill 6 volumes, averaging about 600 pages each.

A volume entitled "Charter and Ordinances."

Contains a copy of the village charter of 1814, and ordinances from May 28, 1855, to September 3, 1891. Only about 75 pages are filled.

- Record of contracts, 1894-1897. 1 vol.
- Record of board of health, 1889-1898. 1 vol.
- Record of board of education, 1853-1887. 2 vols.
- Letter books of board of education, 1892-1893.
- Various warrant books of board of education, 1853-1893.
- Journal of board of education, 1853-1874.
- Various warrant books of the treasurer, for street improvements, for general fund, of sewer commissioner, etc., during the years since 1888.
- A letter book of the trustees, 1895-1897.

Of the village of Richmond Hill, which was formerly a part of Jamaica, appear minutes of the trustees from November, 1894, to December, 1897, and a few account books.

Of the village of College Point, formerly a part of Flushing, appear minute books of the trustees from the incorporation of the village, May, 1867, to the close of 1897. There are four of these volumes with an average of nearly 500 pages each. They are accompanied by the usual array of financial records, but no minutes or other records of departments, as health, highways, etc.

Five minute books of the village of Whitestone are here, extending from 1869 to the close of 1897, the volumes averaging 500 pages each. No department records appear, but various account books are filed.

The older records of Flushing have been destroyed by fire. The town books which survive begin in 1790, and are as follows:

Vol. 1, 1790 to 1833.

Of this, 117 pages are filled with entries of deeds, indentures of servants, letters of manumission of slaves under the act of February 22, 1788, and records of overseers of the poor. Occasionally school records and orders of commissioners of the highways also appear. On the reverse pages are election returns, State and national, for the town of Flushing from 1810 to 1830.

Vol. 2, 1833-1863. 305 pp.

This contains records of town meetings and of commissioners of highways, and returns of elections of town officers, while in later years appear reports and acts of the town board, the board of auditors, and other town officers.

Vol. 3, 1864-1893. 694 pp.

A full record of all kinds of town business during the interval is contained in this volume.

Minutes of board of town trustees, 1863-1885 and 1885-1897. 2 vols., 445 pp. and 225 pp.

Minutes of board of town officers, 1893-1897. 1 vol.

Minutes of board of audit, 1876 to close of 1889, 1890-1897. 2 vols., 362 pp. and 298 pp.

A copy in 1 volume of records of school districts, with meetings and lists of trustees, 1860-1896. Very incomplete.

Minutes of board of health, 1857-1866 and 1888-1897. 2 vols.

Records of board of health, 1870-1888. 1 vol.

Fragmentary minutes of board of excise, 1870-1874, and records of excise board, May, 1875, to May, 1881. 129 pp.

A very incomplete copy of the records of commissioners of highways, 1809-1893. Less than 40 pp.

Minutes of road commissioners, 1871-1874. 1 vol.

Minutes of board of relief, 1864-1866. 1 vol.

Accounts of town supervisors from 1837 to 1872, and from 1889 to 1897.

Various account books of the town boards.

An index to chattel mortgages recorded in the office of the town clerk from 1859 to about 1868.

A large index volume, 677 pp., of records in the office of the town clerk, apparently about 1868.

Besides a list of chattel mortgages and bills of sale on file from 1833 to 1885, this contains a list of bonds, 1797-1868; a list of papers on highways, 1800-1868; a list of oaths of office, 1790-1868; acceptances of office, 1830-1869; contracts and agreements by the overseers of the poor, 1790-1868; a list of 38 town maps on file, and of a few miscellaneous papers. This is a valuable book of reference, giving, among other things, the civil list of the town during a series of years.

Minute books of the trustees of the village of Flushing are here in 7 large volumes, from June, 1837, to the close of 1897; also 2 volumes of records of the board of health, 1889-1896; 4 volumes of records of the police court, 1886-1895, and a register of the water department, 1876-1888. All the other records of the village which have been brought to the controller's office are account books of various kinds, belonging to dates since 1870.

A considerable collection of the records of Newtown is in the office of the controller. The chief place among them belongs to the series of town books, 9 in number, which begin in 1663, and present a continuous record, with the exception of the years 1695 to 1700, to the close of 1897. The character of this series is much the same as that of the Jamaica town books. The earlier volumes are filled chiefly with entries of deeds, etc. About the middle of the eighteenth century records of town meetings appear in considerable number, and soon after those of the town trustees, of overseers of the poor, and commissioners of the highways, together with the results of town elections. This series bears throughout evidences of the eccentricity of William O'Gorman, who was town clerk from about 1881 to 1892, but who kept the records of the town during that period with great fullness and care. A book of court records of Newtown

(1659-1690) is here—worn, but valuable. The other records are the minutes of the board of health, 3 volumes, from the organization of the board in 1885 to the close of 1897; minutes of highway commissioners, 1885 to 1897, 4 volumes; record of schools, 1888-1897, 1 volume; record of excise board, 1870-1894, 2 volumes; record of military enlistments and service from Newtown during the civil war, 1 volume; and several volumes criminal docket, 1894-1897. All the other records of the town deposited here are account books of recent dates.

The local record of the towns and villages of Staten Island have been found to be in a very fragmentary and disordered condition. Previous to 1897, Staten Island, or the borough of Richmond, contained five towns—Castleton, Northfield, Westfield, Southfield, and Middletown. Of these, the first four originated before the close of the seventeenth century, while Middletown was formed by a union of parts of two of the others in 1860. During the past thirty years, owing to the increase of population, villages have grown up and received incorporation within the towns. These villages are New Brighton, Tottenville, Port Richmond, and Edgewater. All the records of these towns and villages which have been found are now deposited in the office of the controller in Manhattan, and in the office of the deputy city clerk in New Brighton. As the early records of the towns would have an important historical interest, special inquiry was made of the individuals who were town clerks at the time when Staten Island was annexed to New York, but no information was obtained from them of records other than those which were then turned over to the city. Presumably, therefore, all of the records are now in the repositories just mentioned. The following statement will show how incomplete the earlier records are:

Of the town of Castleton there have been found—

2 books of minutes of trustees, one from 1864 to 1893 (517 pp.) and the other from 1893 to Feb., 1896 (injured by fire).

Minute book of auditing board, 1853-1864. 1 vol.

Minute book of excise board, 1875-1883. 1 vol.

Minute book of health board, 1856-1864. 1 vol.

Minute book of highway commissioners, 1849-1891. 1 vol.



Of the records of Northfield there are:

Minutes of town board, in 8 volumes of 200 to 300 pages each, as follows:

1824-1857, with results of elections.

1857-1873, with results of elections.

Jan. 30, 1874-Feb. 12, 1880, with results of elections.

Feb. 23, 1880-Dec. 3, 1884, town board and board of auditors.

Dec. 3, 1884-Feb. 16, 1887, town board and board of auditors.

1887-1891, town board and board of auditors.

1894-1896, minutes of town board.

1896-1897, minutes of town board.

Minutes of board of town auditors and board of town supervisors, 1878-Dec., 1890.

Record of roads and minutes of highway commissioners, 1833-1865.

Of the records of Westfield there are:

Record of town meetings, 1844-1872. About 300 pp.

This contains minutes of town meetings, of town board, highway board, and town auditors.

Minutes of town board, 1890-1897. 1 vol.

Minutes of highway commissioners, 1874-1888. 1 vol.

Minutes of board of health, 1890-1897. 1 vol.

Accounts of supervisors of schools, 1886-1897.

Record of elections, 1872-1896. 3 vols.

Justices' criminal docket, 1 vol.

Of the records of Southfield there were found:

Minutes of town board, 1876-1897. 1 vol. 640 pp.

Minutes of highway commissioners, 1889-1897. 1 vol.

Minutes of highway commissioners of Bay View road district, 1859-1865. 1 vol.

Accounts of supervisors of schools, 1886-1897.

Of the records of Middletown there remain:

Town minutes, 1861-1886. 1 vol. 499 pp.

Minutes of town board, Feb. 16, 1888-Oct. 24, 1889. 1 vol. 39 pp.

Minutes of town board, 1890-1897. 1 vol. 450 pp.

Record of town officers with results of town elections, 1860-1879. 1 vol.

Record of roads, 1750-1864. 1 vol. 68 pp.

Minutes of board of health, 1864.

Register of justices' court, 1877-1884. 1 vol.

Minutes of court of special sessions, 1879-1883. 1 vol.

A considerable number of assessment rolls, account books, and records of school districts appear, but all these are of recent dates and have been brought together because they

have an immediate bearing on the current business of the borough of Richmond.

In one of the record rooms in the basement of the Stewart Building, New York City (controller's office), are four files of papers relating to Middletown, Northfield, Westfield, and Southfield.

It will be seen from this review that in the hands of public officials, so far as at present can be ascertained, no records of the four original towns of Staten Island can be found of a date earlier than 1824, and that those since that date in most cases must be very incomplete. The records of the first century and a third of the history of those towns are now totally lacking. Whether they have been lost or willfully destroyed, or whether they are wholly or in part in private hands, the writer is unable to say; in any case they are inaccessible.

As the village governments on Staten Island are all of recent date, and their records have to do with modern business operations, no attempt has been made to examine or report upon them in detail. The more important books among them are the following:

Of the village of New Brighton:

8 volumes of minutes of trustees, Apr., 1866–Dec., 1897. 47 to 796 pp. each.

Minutes of excise board, 1872–1875. 1 vol.

Minutes of trustees and incorporation of village, 1866. 1 vol.

Ordinances of village, 1866–1867. 1 vol., 48 pp.

Various warrant books, tax records, building permits, contracts for sewers and water, records of repairs and grading of streets, pay rolls, etc.

Material of this kind appears to greater or less extent among the records of all the villages.

No records of Tottenville appear earlier than 1894. Among those since that date are 4 minute books and various accounts of the sewer fund, water fund, and road fund.

There are 6 minute books of Port Richmond, of 350 to 400 pages each, of dates between April, 1866, and December, 1897; 2 smaller minute books for dates within the years 1871, 1872, and 1895; minutes of the clerk of the village, Apr., 1872–Aug., 1897, 1 vol.; minutes of sewer commis-

sion, 1891-1897; reports of street commissioners, ranging from 1873 to 1895.

For the village of Edgewater appears a series of 7 minute books of large size, more than 400 pages each, covering in full the years 1869-1897. There is also a long list of account books of various kinds from the office of the treasurer of the village.

PART IV.—DIGEST OF THE LAW OF NEW YORK RELATING TO THE PRESERVATION OF PUBLIC RECORDS.

The clerk of each house of the legislature shall keep on file all documents of such house and those presented to it, and shall cause all papers in his charge to be so classified and arranged that they can be easily found. No papers shall be withdrawn from the files of either house, whether the same be in charge of the regents of the university or the clerk of such house, except such clerk, or deputy appointed by him, shall have access to the papers of such house in charge of the regents for the purpose of taking copies. (Laws of 1892, ch. 682, sec. 22, as amended by laws of 1893, ch. 24, sec. 22.)

The governor shall cause to be kept in the executive chamber journals of the daily transactions of his office; registers containing classified statements of such transactions; separate registers containing classified statements of all applications for pardon, commutation or other executive clemency, and of his action thereon; an account of the expenses and disbursements of his office, including rewards offered for the arrest of criminals, and cost of sending reports and copies of laws to other States; files of all records on applications for executive clemency, of statements made by judges to him, of sentences to death and testimony in capital cases, and of such other papers relating to the transactions of his office as are deemed of sufficient value for preservation; also a register of applications for pardon, and a register of all petitions and applications made to him for the discharge of any duty imposed on him by the constitution or laws of the State, or vested in him. (Laws of 1892, ch. 683, sec. 5; laws of 1858, ch. 64.)

The secretary of state shall have the custody of all laws

and concurrent resolutions of the legislature, all documents issued under the great seal, all books, records, deeds, parchments, maps, and papers deposited or kept in his office, and shall properly arrange and preserve the same.<sup>1</sup> (Laws of 1892, ch. 683, sec. 22.)

The attorney-general shall keep a register of all actions and proceedings prosecuted or defended by him, and of all proceedings in relation thereto, and shall deliver the same to his successor. (Laws of 1892, ch. 683, sec. 54.)

The State engineer shall retain in his office a map of the State, and delineate thereon all changes in the bounds thereof or of the counties therein. He shall collect and preserve all maps, plans, drawings, field notes, levels, and surveys of every description made for the use of the State, and all engineering instruments belonging to the State. The maps and documents in his office shall be opened for inspection, but shall not be removed from the office. (Id., secs. 62, 63.)

The superintendent of public instruction shall keep in his office, in files arranged in order of time, all the proceedings in every appeal to him under the school law, with his decisions and orders founded thereon. (Laws of 1894, ch. 556, tit. 14, sec. 3.)

The board of claims shall keep a record of its proceedings. (Laws of 1883, ch. 285, as amended by laws of 1884, ch. 60, sec. 6.)

The records, maps, and papers of the late board of canal appraisers shall remain in the office and care of the clerk of the board of claims. To the office of the board of claims shall be transferred the books and other records of the late State board of audit, and there they shall be preserved by the clerk of the board of claims. (Laws of 1885, ch. 135, sec. 1.)

The public health law of 1893 requires the keeping of a complete record of births, deaths, and marriages by the local and State boards of health. (Laws of 1893, ch. 661, secs. 5, 22.)

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<sup>1</sup> For lists of the papers required by law to be deposited with the secretary of state, see Birdseye's Revised Statutes, second edition, p. 2786; also the Catalogue of Records in the Office of the Secretary of State.

All books and papers pertaining to the duties of the auditor of the canal department, or to the duties of the commissioners of the canal fund, or of the canal board, shall be deposited in the canal department and securely kept by the auditor. (Laws of 1848, ch. 162, sec. 4.)

The necessity for the use of documents as written evidence before the courts has gone far to cause the preservation of them, and the law of evidence as contained in the Code of Civil Procedure, sections 933-941, with amendments to the same, contains several provisions relating to the production and certification of documents for evidential purposes, all of which rest on the supposition that such books and papers have been preserved with care by the officials in charge of them. The documents mentioned in these clauses are docket books, records of conveyances, wills, ordinances and by-laws, rules and proceedings of the common councils of cities, of the trustees of incorporated villages, of local boards of health, and of boards of supervisors, and all instruments and papers entered or recorded pursuant to law in the public offices of the State. Full provision is also made for the acceptance as evidence of duly certified copies of papers from other States.

A return or other paper in a special proceeding, where no other disposition thereof is prescribed by law, must be filed and an order thereon must be entered with the proper officer. (Code of Civil Procedure, sec. 825.)

The duties of clerks of courts in docketing judgments, furnishing transcripts of the same, and keeping dockets public, will be found in the Code of Civil Procedure, section 1246. There a docket is defined and its contents specified. By section 1236 clerks of courts are required to keep a book for the entry of judgments, called the "judgment book," in which interlocutory and final judgments must be recorded, with their dates, the relief granted, or other determination made. By section 1237 they are required, on entering final judgment, to file the judgment roll, which shall contain, unless there is special provision to the contrary, the summons, pleadings, and interlocutory and final judgment in each case; if the judgment be taken by default, the papers neces-

sary to be filed in such a case; and if the judgment is taken after trial the verdict, report, or decision, with such offers and exceptions as were made.

From the sections of the code relating to special courts and to fees of clerks of courts, more detailed information concerning the papers required to be kept or produced by those officers, may be found.

Naturalization papers are to be kept by the clerk of the court where the final application for admission to citizenship is made, and are to be open for inspection. Returns of these are to be annually made by such clerks to the secretary of state, and are to be filed by him in form convenient for reference. These returns must contain the name and residence of every person naturalized during the year, with the date of naturalization. (Laws of 1895, ch. 927, sec. 6.)

The seals, books, files, records, and papers of the superior court of the city of New York, the court of common pleas of the city and county of New York, the superior court of Buffalo, and the city court of Brooklyn, shall be deposited in the offices of the clerks of the several counties in which said courts have heretofore existed, and shall be preserved by said clerks separate from the other records in their offices, and shall be in the charge of special deputy clerks, so as to be readily accessible for inspection. Over these records the justices of the supreme court and the clerks of the said several counties, respectively, shall have the same powers as were formerly possessed by the judges of the above-mentioned local courts.<sup>1</sup> (Code of Civil Procedure, sec. 93, as amended by constitution of 1895.)

Every justice of the peace must keep a docket book, and the entries he must make in it are specified in detail by law. During the business hours of the sheriff's office this book must be kept open for inspection. An alphabetical index of all the judgments entered in the book must be kept. The justice must carefully file and preserve each affidavit or other paper delivered to him to be filed in an action or special proceeding.

If, before the expiration of his term of office, the justice

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<sup>1</sup> The courts here referred to were abolished by the constitution of 1895.

removes from the town or city where he was elected, he must deposit with the clerk of that town or city his docket book and all other books and papers in his custody which relate to actions or special proceedings heard or commenced before him. If a justice is removed from office he must make a like deposit of books and papers. If the justice dies, or his office becomes otherwise vacant, the town or city clerk must demand and receive all books and papers which belonged to the justice in his official capacity from any person having them in his possession. If any book or paper required to be deposited with the town or city clerk be withheld, the same proceedings to compel the deposit thereof may be instituted as in cases where an officer refuses to deliver a book or paper to his successor. Entries in the docket book are presumptive evidence of the matters of fact stated therein, and transcripts of them and copies of papers on file in any case must be furnished on application and payment of fees by any person interested in said case. (Code of Civil Procedure, secs. 3140-3149.)

A detailed statement of the records to be kept by clerks of police magistrates is in Laws of 1895, ch. 601, sec. 7.

The appellate division of the supreme court in any department may direct a county clerk to destroy any of the following papers, filed or hereafter to be filed in his office, which he deems to have become useless: Pleadings or copies of pleadings furnished for the use of the court; jury panels; returns of inferior courts which have been embodied in judgment records or judgment rolls; innkeepers' licenses ten years old; returns of election district canvassers twenty years old which have been copied, pursuant to law, into books preserved in the office. But this provision does not authorize the destruction of a judgment roll, or a paper incorporated, or necessary to be incorporated, into a judgment roll. (Code of Civil Procedure, sec. 21, as amended.)

The oath of office of every State officer shall be filed with the secretary of state; that of every officer of a municipal corporation with the clerk thereof; that of every other officer in the office of the clerk of the county where he resides, if no other place is provided by law for the filing thereof.

Copies of commissions of State officers shall be recorded in the office of the secretary of state; those of local officers shall be filed in the office of the county clerk.

Official undertakings or bonds shall be filed in some office other than that in which the commission or certificate of election is filed.

Resignations of officials shall be filed in the offices of those to whom they are addressed. If they are addressed to the legislature, or to the presiding officer of either house thereof, they shall be filed with the secretary of state. If they are addressed to any other body they must be filed with its clerk or among its records.

Orders for the removal of State officers by other State officers must be filed with the secretary of state. Orders for the removal of local officers by State officers must also be filed in the office of the secretary of state, and a duplicate of the same in the office of the clerk of the county where the officer removed has his residence. (Laws of 1892, ch. 681, as amended by Laws of 1893, ch. 318.)

The statutes set forth many other details relating to the duties of State officers in regard to specific records, but it has not been thought necessary to introduce them here.

Each surrogate must provide and keep the following books: (1) A record book of wills, in which must be recorded at length every will required by law to be recorded in his office, with the decree admitting it to probate, and also, if the probate is not contested, the proof taken thereupon; (2) a record book of letters testamentary and letters of administration, in which must be recorded all such letters issued out of his court; (3) a record book in which must be recorded every decree whereby the account of an executor, administrator, trustee, or guardian is settled; (4) a book containing a minute of every paper filed, or other proceeding taken, relating to the disposition of the real property of a decedent, and a record of every order or decree made thereupon, with a memorandum of every report made and other proceeding taken founded upon a decree for such a disposition; (5) a book containing a record of every decree or order the record of which is not required by this section to be kept elsewhere, together with a memorandum of each execution issued, and



of the satisfaction of each decree recorded therein; (6) a book in which must be recorded all letters of guardianship issued out of his court; (7) a book of fees and disbursements, in which must be entered, by items, all fees charged or received by him for services or expenses, and all disbursements made or incurred by him which are chargeable against those fees or to the county. The expense of providing these books is a county charge. Alphabetical indexes of all the books here specified must also be kept by the surrogate.

The surrogate must also file and preserve every deposition, affidavit, petition, report, account, voucher, or other paper relating to any proceeding in his court, and deliver to his successor all papers and books kept by him.

A surrogate who admits to probate the will of a person who was not a resident of the State at the time of death, or who grants original or ancillary letters testamentary or letters of administration on the estate of such a person, shall, within ten days thereafter, transmit to the secretary of state, to be filed in his office, a certified copy of the will or letters. (Code of Civil Procedure, secs. 2498-2503.)

Boards of supervisors shall have general charge of the books and records of the county, subject to the legal rights of the officers using or having custody of the same, and shall provide for their safe-keeping. They may authorize county officers having the official custody or control of any such books and records, or of maps and papers, to cause copies thereof to be made and certified for the public use; and it shall be their duty to cause the same to be made and certified whenever, by reason of age or exposure, or any casualty, the same shall be necessary. Payments for such transcripts shall not exceed a sum to be certified by the county judge, or by a justice of the supreme court of the district, as reasonable therefor, and the board of supervisors shall not pay for the work until it shall be examined and approved by such judge or justice; nor shall any board of supervisors order such work to be done until such judge or justice, after examination, shall certify it as necessary for the security and safety of the public records. (Laws of 1892, ch. 23, sec. 26, revised with slight change from act of 1869.)

The county clerk shall have the custody of all books, papers, records, deeds, parchments, maps, and papers deposited in his office in pursuance of law and attend to their arrangement and preservation. He shall provide, at the expense of the county, the necessary books for recording all papers, documents, or matters authorized by law to be recorded in his office. (Laws of 1892, ch. 686, sec. 161, revised from Laws of 1844, ch. 125.)

Any instrument or writing filed or recorded in pursuance of law in the office of a register of a county shall be deemed to be a compliance with any provision of law authorizing such paper to be filed or recorded in the office of the clerk of such county. (Laws of 1892, ch. 677, sec. 21.)

The clerk of the county of New York shall forever be relieved and restrained from performing any duties relating to the recording of deeds, registering of mortgages, conveyances, and other writings which by law are or hereafter may be required to be recorded or registered, save as otherwise specially provided by law.

Whenever any books or records affecting titles to real estate, or liens on the same, or any other books, or records, or transcripts of judgments in the office of the clerk of the city and county, become mutilated or injured so that they can not be conveniently or correctly examined, the clerk shall cause copies of them to be made, at the expense of the county.

All that part of the duty performed prior to April 9, 1813, by the clerk of the city and county of New York<sup>1</sup>, which relates to the registering of mortgages and the recording of deeds, conveyances, and other writings which by law are directed, or may hereafter be directed, to be registered or recorded, shall continue to be performed by the register of said city and county, and he shall enjoy all the rights and powers in the premises which formerly belonged to the county clerk. The register shall prepare indexes of all books of registry. Chattel mortgages shall be filed in the office of the register. (Laws of 1882, consolidation act re-

<sup>1</sup> See Laws of 1813, ch. 27, by which the office of register of the city and county of New York was created.

lating to New York City, ch. 410, secs. 1733, 1734, 1744, 1747, 1752, 1753.)

An act was passed in 1852 (ch. 83) providing for the election of a register of deeds for Kings County, and an act in 1858 (ch. 293) creating a similar office in Westchester County. Both those officials were to perform duties similar to those performed by the register of the county of New York.

Lists of grand jurors, alphabetically arranged and entered in a separate book, shall be annually filed with the county clerk by the commissioner of jurors. These shall be open for inspection and correction. (Laws of 1894, ch. 557, sec. 5.)

Mechanics' liens shall be entered in a book kept for the purpose by the financial officer of the county, town, city, or village where the claims originate. (Laws of 1892, ch. 629, amended from Laws of 1878 and 1891.)

All records belonging to the mayor, aldermen, and commonalty of the city of New York, except such as by law are committed to the keeping of the several departments, shall be kept by the city clerk. He shall be the custodian of all the records and papers belonging to any of the municipal and public corporations by this act united and consolidated with the city of New York, and shall be empowered to appoint a clerk in each of the boroughs constituted by this act, who shall have charge of the records of his borough, subject to the control of the city clerk and of the municipal assembly. (Charter of New York City, laws of 1897, ch. 378, secs. 28, 32.)

The town clerk shall have the custody of all the records, books, and papers of the town, and shall duly file all the certificates of oaths and other papers required by law to be filed in his office. He shall transcribe in the books of records of his town the minutes of the proceedings of every town meeting held therein, and shall enter in such books every order or direction and all rules and regulations made by such town meeting. (Laws of 1890, ch. 569, sec. 83, revised from various earlier statutes.)

The town clerk may, with the consent of the town board, purchase or furnish for his office all necessary bound blank books for the entering and keeping of the records of the town, and also necessary books and office cases and other

furniture for the use and convenience of the office and the safekeeping of the books and papers of the town; and the expense thereof shall be a town charge, to be audited and paid as other town charges. (Law of 1890, ch. 569, sec. 85.)

When the term of office of any supervisor, town clerk, commissioner of highways, or overseer of the poor shall expire, or the officer shall resign, he shall, when required, deliver upon oath to his successor all the records, books, and papers in his possession or under his control and belonging to the office held by him. In the case of the death of such officers their executors or administrators, when such demand is made upon them, shall deliver the books and papers belonging to the office of their testator or intestate. (Laws of 1890, ch. 569, sec. 84.)

Overseers of the poor in towns and cities shall keep books in which they shall enter the name, age, sex, and native country of every person who shall be relieved by them, with a statement of the causes, so far as they can be ascertained, which shall have operated to render such relief necessary. The names of the parents of every child who is placed in a family, the name and address of the family with which it is placed, and the occupation of the head of the family must also be entered, together with a statement of all moneys received and paid, and of all debts contracted. These books and an itemized account prepared from them shall be subject to periodical audit by the board of town auditors or the common council of the city. The account shall be filed with the town or city clerk, and he shall produce the same at the next town meeting and read it, if required. (Laws of 1896, ch. 225, sec. 26.)

Decisions of commissioners appointed by the county to affix damages occasioned by the laying out of highways shall be filed in the office of the town clerk where the highway is located. (Laws of 1895, ch. 716, sec. 1.)

The commissioner of highways of each town shall file with the town clerk a written appointment of a resident of each district to be overseer of highways therein. (Laws of 1890, ch. 568, sec. 4.)

Bills of sale are to be filed in the offices of town and city clerks (save in cities which contain the office of a county

clerk, where they are to be filed in his office), and in the cities of New York and Brooklyn, where they are to be filed in the office of the register. (Laws of 1885, ch. 488, sec. 2.)

Docket books and papers of justices' courts are to be deposited with town or city clerks, if the justice removes from the town or city wherein he was elected, or if he is removed from office. On the death of a justice of the peace the town or city clerk is to receive all the books and papers of his office. (Code of Civil Procedure, secs. 3144, 3146.)

Certificates of authorization for water companies to furnish water must be filed with town or city clerks. (Laws of 1890, ch. 566, sec. 80.)

Chattel mortgages shall be filed in the offices of town clerks, in the offices of county clerks when such are located in cities, and in the office of the register in New York City. (Laws of 1833, ch. 279, sec. 2.)

Certificates of the incorporation of insurance companies, with their annual statements and other matter, must, if town corporations, be filed in the office of the clerk of the town where the corporation proposes to do business, and, if a county corporation, in the office of the clerk of the county where it proposes to do business. (Laws of 1886, ch. 573, sec. 3; formulated as the result of several successive revisions of Laws of 1857, ch. 739, sec. 3.)

The law regarding the filing of certificates of nomination and other matters relating to elections appears in the election law of 1896, ch. 909, secs. 9, 36, 58, 59, 62, 63, 66, 87, 189, 190, 234, 250.

Copies of enrollment of all persons, other than members of the National Guard, who are liable for military duty, must be deposited with the clerk of the town or city in which the person enrolled resides, and in the office of the clerk of the county where the enrollment is made. Notices of exemption from service must be similarly filed. (Law of 1893, ch. 559, secs. 3, 4.)

Under the consolidated school law, 1894, ch. 556, town clerks are required to record in books certificates from supervisors of the apportionment of school moneys; to receive the annual reports of trustees of school districts; to

keep in books an annual account of receipts and disbursements of school moneys, and of the action of the town auditors thereon; to file bonds of supervisors; to file descriptions of school districts, and to preserve the records of dissolved school districts.

Bonds given by supervisors for the faithful performance of their duties are to be filed in the offices of the clerks of their respective towns. (Laws of 1890, ch. 569, sec. 60.)

Bonds of supervisors acting as railroad commissioners are to be filed in the offices of the clerks of towns conferring such power. (Laws of 1889, ch. 402, sec. 2.)

Marriage certificates are to be filed by the clerk of the town or city where either party resides, and the substance of the certificate is to be entered in a book kept for the purpose, the entries to be in order of time and in the alphabetical order of the initial letter of the surname of each party. (Laws of 1896, ch. 272, sec. 15.)

Surveys and maps used in the assessment of the real property of nonresidents are to be deposited after the assessment is completed in the office of the town clerk for the information of future assessors. (Laws of 1896, ch. 908, sec. 30.)

The entries required by law to be made in an assessment roll are to be found in the Laws of 1899, chapter 908, sections 21, 29, and 31. Assessment rolls are to be filed in the offices of town and city clerks. (Id., sec. 38.)

Boards of trustees of villages shall keep records of their proceedings. All votes, when required by one of the trustees, shall be entered in such record, and it shall contain the names of the members of the board present and voting on any question, and the affirmative and negative votes of the members. (Laws of 1870, ch. 291, tit. 8, sec. 13.)

A public officer may demand, from any person in whose possession they may be, a delivery to such officer of the books and papers belonging to such office. If such demand is refused, such officer may make complaint to any justice of the supreme court of the district, or to the county judge of the county in which the person refusing resides. If such justice or judge be satisfied that the books or papers in question are withheld, he shall grant an order directing that

cause shall, at a specified time, be shown before him why the books and papers should not be delivered. If the person charged with withholding the books or papers then makes affidavit that he has delivered all the papers which, to the best of his knowledge and belief, pertain to the office in question, into the custody of the officer demanding them, the proceedings shall cease and the accused be discharged. But if he shall not make such oath, and it appears that any books or papers are withheld by him, the justice or judge shall commit him to the county jail till he delivers them, or is otherwise discharged. On such commitment the justice or judge, if required by the complainant, shall also issue his warrant directed to any sheriff or constable, commanding him to search in the daytime the places designated therein for such books and papers, and to bring them before him. If they are brought, he shall determine whether they appertain to such office, and if so, shall cause them to be delivered to the complainant. (Code of Civil Procedure, sec. 2471, added by Laws of 1893, ch. 179.)

A person is guilty of grand larceny in the second degree who, under circumstances not amounting to grand larceny in the first degree, steals or unlawfully obtains or appropriates a record of a court or officer, or a writing, instrument, or record filed or deposited according to law, with or in keeping of any public office or officer.<sup>1</sup> (Code of Criminal Procedure, sec. 531.)

Any officer authorized by law to record a conveyance of real property, or of any other instrument which by law may be recorded, who knowingly and falsely certifies that such conveyance or instrument has been recorded is guilty of a felony.

A sheriff, coroner, clerk of court, constable, or other ministerial officer, and every deputy and subordinate of any ministerial officer, who mutilates, destroys, conceals, erases, obliterates, or falsifies any record or paper appertaining to his office is guilty of felony. (Code of Criminal Procedure, secs. 114, 162.)

By chapter 190 of the Laws of 1856 it was provided that Henry P. Moore, John P. Rolfe, and Jared Sparks, of

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<sup>1</sup>This law has been interpreted and enforced by a long list of judicial decisions.

Brooklyn, counselors at law, should be commissioners of records for the county of Kings, "with full powers to examine into the conditions of the records of the clerk, register, and surrogate of said county, and to have the same copied and printed in such form and to such an extent as they may deem proper, and to do such further acts for the preservation and convenient examination of the same as the public interest may require." The commissioners were to receive no compensation, but their necessary expenses were to be paid by the county treasurer on their certificates. The county was not, however, to be liable for any expenses incurred in the execution of the act<sup>1</sup> unless the consent of the board of supervisors had first been obtained. When indexes<sup>2</sup> of the records had been printed the commissioners were to fix the price at which they might be sold by the county treasurer, and the proceeds of the sales were to go to the county. It does not appear that the commissioners appointed by this act ever exercised the powers of their office, and the law seems to have been from the first a dead letter.

By chapter 365 of the Laws of 1894 elaborate provision was made for indexing on the "block" system all instruments relating to lands and liens thereon which should be recorded in the office of the register of the county of Kings subsequent to January 1, 1895. This also included the preparation of a land map of the county. Sections 23 and 24 of this act also required the clerk and register of said county to reindex on the block system all instruments, with certain specified exceptions, which had been recorded or filed in their offices prior to January, 1895.

By chapter 755 of the Laws of 1896 provision was made for the appointment by the mayor of Brooklyn, in conjunction with the register, clerk, and surrogate of the county of Kings, of three persons to be known as commissioners of records of the county. They were to serve without compensation, and their duty was to examine into the condition of the books, documents, maps, and indexes of the clerk, register, and surrogate of said county; and they were

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<sup>1</sup> Probably referring to expenses incurred in indexing and printing documents.

<sup>2</sup> Probably meaning calendars.



given the sole right to authorize the clerk, register, and surrogate to have copies of said books, maps, etc., made, when by reason of age, use, exposure, or casualty it should be deemed necessary so to do. These commissioners were to hold office for six years. By chapter 526 of the Laws of 1897 the powers of the commissioners were enlarged so as to give them general supervision, care, and control of all the maps and records kept in the three offices mentioned, and the exclusive power to make rules for the convenient use of the same by the public. Provision was also made that each of the commissioners should receive an annual salary of \$2,500, and that they should appoint a superintendent for the register's office and another for the office of the county clerk, whose duties it should be to superintend the work ordered to be done by the commissioners in these offices, and to have general supervision over all the records therein. The compensation of the superintendents was to be fixed by the commissioners, but it was not to be in excess of a certain sum. By these officials the reindexing was to be continued, as provided by law, and the board of estimate of the city of Brooklyn was directed to make the provision necessary therefor.

By chapter 591 of the Laws of 1899 the terms of office of the commissioners of records were made to expire in May of that year, and provision was made that immediately thereafter the district attorney of the county of Kings should appoint one person to be known as commissioner of records. He should hold office for five years, and should be paid an annual salary of \$5,000. The commissioner was authorized to appoint assistants and fix their salaries.

In addition to the duties of the board of commissioners, whose place he took, he was authorized to assume the care and custody of the books, maps, and other records of the former towns of New Lots, Flatbush, New Utrecht, Gravesend, and Flatlands, which had recently been annexed to the city (now the borough) of Brooklyn, to cause the same, when necessary, to be copied and indexed, and to make rules for their convenient use. It was also made the duty of all persons or officers who had in their custody any of the records of said towns to deliver the same to the commis-

sioner. Writs of mandamus and examinations under oath may be resorted to by him in the performance of this duty.

It will be seen by this that the county of Kings has had a varied and somewhat interesting experience with commissioners of records. Probably, however, this is not to be taken as indicative of a more widespread or intelligent interest in the preservation of records in that locality than elsewhere. So far as known to the compiler no other county in the State has imitated in this respect the policy of Kings, nor has any officer known as commissioner of records ever existed elsewhere in the State.

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NEW YORK ARCHIVES.

Richness and Extent of Them— Prof. Osgood's Report.\*

PROF. HERBERT L. OSGOOD of Columbia University has performed a valuable service in directing attention afresh to the value of State, county, and town records. He has just prepared, on behalf of the American Historical Association, a report which is undoubtedly the most exhaustive ever presented on the archives and public records of the State and City of New York under the old English rule would be of the most agree description.

Few persons in this city probably know that the late Judge Charles P. Daly prevented the wanton destruction of a mass of old New York records. Paper commanded a high price during the civil war, and one might imagine that conflict Judge Daly

Edward Robeson Taylor's poem, "Into the Light," is no doubt above mediocrity, and is full of a wise philosophy of deep things. It emphasizes the call to duty, and the transitoriness and unprofitableness of anything but serious living. It takes so high a ground, indeed, that one is forced to compare it with great single poems to its detriment. There can be little fault found with its technique, and none with its moral; but for so large an effort, the result is a trifle disappointing. Even Tennyson recognized the low "swallow flight" in poetry, and why should not the lesser bard? Still, no stanza in this poem is expressed badly, and the material part of the volume is ornamented, one must say, with profuse decorations.

INTO THE LIGHT. By Edward Robeson Taylor. D. P. Elder and Morgan Shepard. San Francisco, 1901.

Eliminations have been explained, let us see what position Burroughs has set up as a he does like. "I do not want, a mere rhymed description or scene, nor a fanciful dress-NATURE. Edited by John Burroughs, with a portrait and with a decorative and initials by William Jordan. 360. New York: McClure, Phillips

the proceedings of the committee during the prevalence of typhoid fever in 1700. In the American Historical Society's "John Romeyn Brodhead and O'Callaghan will ever be linked. The new translations which Brodhead

mass of papers, he saw among them minutes of Aldermen and Council, reports of committees, petitions, financial statements, &c. It is said by officials in charge that they relate wholly to matters never acted on, and to unfinished business, but a cursory examination would indicate that this is not the case, but that papers of all kinds to which business, both finished and unfinished, gave rise, may be found in this mass. Apparently these papers are needed to complete the files just referred to.

The most important single body of unprinted records relating to the history of New York as an English city is the minutes of the Common Council, preserved in large ledgers in the office of the City Clerk in the City Hall. There are nineteen volumes, covering the period from Oct. 17, 1675, when English rule was re-established after the inaccessibility of the material. The records are the property of the people, and as such are legally and theoretically accessible to all; but the large number of offices among which they are scattered, the scanty accommodations provided for them, the lack of facilities for students, together with the positive neglect and even loss of the records themselves, make them for most practical purposes unavailable. The trouble, of course, is not so much with the official custodians as with the system under which wholly insufficient provision for the care of this. With the enormous mass of New York, it is evidence of a radical change along with them will be them practically available of historical or legal

the only State in the appreciated the value of its efficiently to appoint a person, whose duty it is to have the supervision of the city, town, and village report has been made to obtain some history of New York we have found in the thus far with the study of the position of the company that relation, so that ment may be most valuable as upholding records; just outlined

purpose of ascertaining the Boer prison can. The should have city's descriptions of public pageants; while the publication of such works steadily continues we still know little about the real history of the municipality. Yet it is obvious that any attempt to work















